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The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.7 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.



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National Commander **Ronald F. Conley**
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EDITORIAL

Editor **John Raughter**
Managing Editor **Jeff Stoffer**
Contributing Editor **Steve Brooks**
Assistant Editor **James V. Carroll**
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Art Director **Holly K. Soria**
Designer **Douglas Rollison**
Designer **King Doxsee**

ADVERTISING

Advertising Director **Diane Andretti**
Advertising Assistant **Sara Palmer**
Advertising Assistant **Leslie Hankins**

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FOX ASSOCIATES, INC. Publisher's Representatives

Chicago: (312) 644-3888
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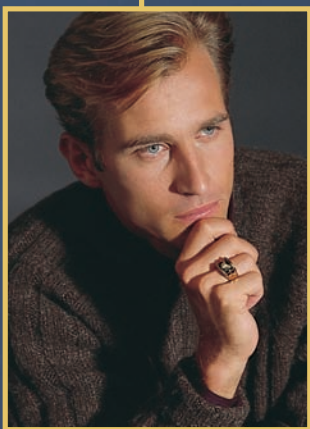
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Don't blame military

The February article "No Easy Answers" quotes a veteran as saying, "I went from being a social drinker to a weekend drinker to a full-time drinker. I stopped paying rent... I lost my job." Did being a veteran cause this? I made the Normandy invasion, was wounded and spent three years in Army hospitals. I received excellent care and retired from a private corporation after 39 years. The point? The military doesn't make alcoholics and drug addicts. They do it themselves.

— Claude Lovett, San Antonio

A question to ask

Unfortunately, it may be true that there are no easy answers when it comes to our homeless veterans. But what situation were these homeless veterans in when they joined the military? Had they completed their educations? Did they have paying jobs? Were they living at home with their parents? If any of these situations were acceptable before entering the service, were any of these situations acceptable upon being discharged? Just what do our discharged servicemen expect from their society and their government upon discharge?

I enlisted in 1969. When I was discharged in 1972, I used my Montgomery GI Bill benefits to return to college and complete my degree. I obtained a state government job and have made my own living since then. The fact that approximately 150 private-sector businesses, nonprofit service organizations and government agencies are helping homeless veterans is great. But the question for most homeless veterans in this country is this: what have I done to help myself?

— Jim Keebler, Huntsville, Ala.

Too much religion

As a non-Christian, I found the article "The Other City of Angels" (February) somewhat offensive

and very incomplete. On the first page were references to "conversion," "evangel[izing] the world" and a highlighted quote about "those of us who call ourselves Christians." What about those of us who don't?

Yes, on the second page you do devote one short paragraph to Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., but the writer then goes back to discussing the Christian Embassy. Aren't there any Moslem or Jewish or Seventh-day Adventist prayer and study groups he could have written about?

I recently joined the Legion and thought I was joining a veterans organization, not a religious one. Please try to be more balanced and sensitive in the future.

— Bernard Zazula, New Fairfield, Conn.

An honest answer

I just finished reading Dan Allsup's excellent article on Joe Foss ("The World According to Joe Foss," February). I would like to commend you for running the article in its entirety, specifically the last question: what is your greatest achievement? Foss said it was his belief in God and receiving Jesus Christ as his savior and Lord. These days most editors would have edited that answer so that readers would never have seen it. You chose to run it, and for that I salute you.

— Mike Norman, Lake Havasu City, Ariz.

WE WANT YOUR OPINIONS

The American Legion Magazine welcomes letters concerning articles that appear in the publication. Be sure to include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters are subject to editing. Send your opinions to:

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Refreshing read

Joe Foss couldn't be more right. We'd better shape up in this country and forget all this "politically correct" nonsense, or we're down the tubes. What a refreshing read. Words by a straight-shooter. We need more like him.

— Clarence L. Galliard, Halstead, Kan.

Ideas with merit

Thank you for the fine article "The World According to Joe Foss." It is a shame that the magazine that professes to be for God and country gives the impression of humoring the views he expressed only because of his great accomplishments and not because the ideas have merit. Joe Foss was wise. Many cry that the economy is our biggest problem; it is not. Our biggest problem is national spiritual blindness and the intellectual lunacy that is a result.

— Norman J. Shumaker Jr., Sumter, S.C.

Dubious agenda

I just finished reading "The Real Abraham Lincoln" (February). I would like to know who is paying these revisionists to undermine this great nation's history. Their venomous attacks are insulting.

— Harold J. Comppen, Fair Lawn, N.J.

Deeds, not words

Anyone can find what Lincoln and others stood for by reading what they, themselves, said. And what they did in life and public service proves them men of their words.

Thanks to Dinesh D'Souza for setting the record straight on Lincoln.

— John C. Wilken, Oak Harbor, Wash.

No champion

"The Real Abraham Lincoln" begs for some scrutiny as to its veracity. It seems as if Dinesh D'Souza works like the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, in that he only quotes and cites those points that further his beliefs and blatantly omits the ones he doesn't like.

In reference to his comment that Lincoln "never acknowledges black inferiority; he merely concedes the possibility," D'Souza

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should read Lincoln's remarks of Aug. 14, 1862, to a gathering of free blacks who were his guests: "You and we are different races. We have between us a broader difference than exists between almost any other two races Even when you cease to be slaves, you are yet far removed from being placed on an equality with the white race. The aspiration of men is to enjoy equality with the best when free, but on this broad continent not a single man of your race is made the equal of a single man of ours."

This is from the "great champion" of the blacks.

— Sidney M. Basford, Sneads, Fla.

Learn the language

Rep. Gene Green, D-Texas, clearly is writing for the benefit of his constituents ("English as Official U.S. Language," Big Issues, February). There is a vast difference between retaining with pride one's cultural heritage and refusing to assimilate into one's new culture. It is the latter that appears to be characteristic of many recent immigrants. Requiring all documents to be in English and Spanish, as is the case in Florida, merely costs taxpayers additional dollars and enables those who choose not to learn English — and there are many of them — to stay out of the mainstream of the society in which they have chosen to live. The same can be said for bilingual education. For generations, immigrants from many countries came to the United States to live and learned without question the language of the country. It is time for recent immigrants to do the same.

— Allan MacKinnon, Marathon, Fla..

No need for law

Legislation to dictate that English become the official language of the United States is ridiculous. How do you force someone to learn the language of the country they live in? You can't. New immigrants are eager to learn English. The problems are long waiting lists to attend classes and not enough qualified instructors to teach English. Rep. Peter King

and his Republican colleagues need to address more important issues, such as the economy.

— Mark "Swede" Erickson, St. Louis

English only

Is it not obvious to everyone that Rep. Gene Green, D-Texas, is opposed to making English the official language of the United States because he wants the Hispanic vote? I am tired of listening to phone menus of government offices first in English and again in Spanish. Here in New Jersey, even schools have adopted the practice. The test for obtaining a driver's license is given in so many languages I've lost count. If you don't understand English, how can you follow the road signs?

If you want to live in America, learn our language.

— Norm Ivins, Tuckerton, N.J.

Stretched thin

I strongly doubt that Jonathan Pond's article "Stretching Dollars" (February) would lead to future financial security. In the real world, there is no such thing as financial security. Webster defines security as "freedom from danger, risk or poverty." The drop in the stock market and failure of major corporations has weakened our financial security.

My husband and I were well-prepared for retirement. With home and car paid for, we bought savings bonds, CDs and an IRA. We had two savings accounts. This was our nest egg. We were totally ignorant of the outside forces eyeing it.

In January, our HMO increased \$236. Prescriptions increased from \$15 to \$40. Heating oil went from 99 cents a gallon to \$1.39 a gallon. Garbage collection increased \$10 a year. An unfair county assessment on my 75-year-old home resulted in a tax increase to \$2,600 a year. I now have a shortfall. I am sure our increase in Social Security will help a lot, all \$10 of it.

— Audrey M. Casperson, McKeesport, Pa.

SPAM and eggs

I got a kick out of Harvey Meyer's article "A Slice of Americana" (February), regarding the preva-

lence of SPAM in World War II and Korea. I've got one correction to make, however. While serving in the Navy during Vietnam, we were given SPAM often enough on the mess decks. It was served mostly as a breakfast meat with eggs. I still enjoy it that way.

— Stephen L. Raymond, Athol, N.Y.

Death by SPAM

While serving in the Pacific during World War II, one SPAM story making the rounds told of an officer aboard a destroyer who saved a can of SPAM during lean chow days. He tied a string around the can and slipped it down the barrel of a 5-inch gun.

A sudden kamikaze attack sent everyone to their battle stations. As an enemy Zero raced for the destroyer, the 5-inchers blasted away. Although the shells missed their mark, the can of SPAM crashed through the plane's canopy, mortally wounding the pilot. The Zero crashed into the sea.

That was probably the only plane ever to be brought down by a can of SPAM.

— Bud Feuer, Roanoke, Va.

Fund VA care

VA's decision to discontinue providing medical benefits for Category-8 veterans is terrible. I use VA for only a few benefits and get some of my prescription drugs from it. I retired in 1994 and have only started using the benefits to which I am entitled, and now because of cutbacks I am going to have to pay thousands more dollars. Something should be done.

I realize that as a Category-8 veteran, I am not in the same position as those who are more needy. However, if VA is going to start discriminating against veterans like myself — who not only served, but joined the military during the Korean War — then something is wrong with the system.

These funds should be a part of our national defense budget, not a separate line item. This is no way to treat those of us who were willing to give our lives in the service of our country.

— Ronald C. Pilenzo, Hobe Sound, Fla.

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During the 107th Congress, a small group of U.S. senators ignored the will of their constituents, fellow lawmakers and president regarding the flag-protection amendment.

With a change in the Senate leadership, and with the help of Legionnaires throughout America, I hope we can change that in the 108th Congress.

More than two years ago, the House version of the amendment, H.J. Res. 36, overwhelmingly passed during a floor vote. It was then sent to the Senate, where it sat.

Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D., the Senate majority leader at the time, never let the amendment get to the floor for a vote. Neither did Sen. Pat Leahy, D-Vt., then-chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Despite having the support of more than 60 senators, the amendment never had a chance.

All 50 states now have resolutions on the books calling for a constitutional amendment to protect the flag from desecration, but that didn't matter. In effect, Daschle and Leahy kept S.J. Res. 7 hostage until Congress adjourned.

November's elections gave control of the Senate back to the Republicans and put amendment-friendly senators into key leadership positions. Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, is the new chairman of the Judiciary Committee, where the resolution has been referred. Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., is the majority leader. Frist is a cosponsor to S.J. Res. 4, introduced by Hatch and Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., which is this session's version of the flag-protection amendment. It reads, "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States."

The same amendment, H.J. Res. 4, has been introduced in the House and has 55 co-sponsors and the support of more than 300 representatives, more than enough to

pass it. That's no surprise; the amendment has passed the House on four different occasions.

We are close in the Senate. While S.J. Res. 4 has 44 co-sponsors, 64 senators have expressed support for it at one time or another. That's three votes short of what we need to get it passed.

With the new leadership in the Senate, we have an opportunity to put flag protection to a vote for the first time since 2000. Since we began our fight to once again make the U.S. Flag a protected symbol, the time never has been so right to make this happen.

As of this writing, we are on the verge of a war with Iraq. The war against terrorism is an ongoing effort. American patriotism is running at a level unseen for years.

For our soldiers stationed abroad, no sight is more reassuring than seeing Old Glory waving above their station and nothing more demoralizing than seeing it burn in the streets of America.

Since America fought for its independence, there has been no greater symbol of freedom and democracy in the world.

Men and women have given their lives to protect the ideas and principles it represents. It's simple common sense that a symbol worth dying for is a symbol worth protecting.

Tell your senators and representatives you believe this. Urge them to sign on as co-sponsors. If they don't support the amendment, ask them why. Tell them desecrating the flag isn't free speech; it's conduct, conduct most Americans find offensive. Some even consider it treason.

The Supreme Court in 1989 took away our right to protect Old Glory. It's up to the people of this country to take that right back. The window of opportunity is open. Let's put the Stars and Stripes in that window.

How to contact members of Congress

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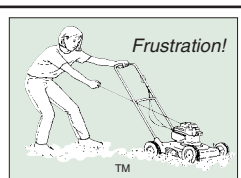
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Make tax cuts permanent

SUPPORT

Rep. Kenny Hulshof
R-Mo.



In 1789, Benjamin Franklin wryly noted, "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." If only the same could be said of tax relief, once it has been signed into law.

In 2001, Congress passed, and the president signed, a broad-based tax-relief package.

Millions of taxpayers began to benefit almost immediately, through rebate checks and decreased federal income-tax withholding. Unfortunately – as the law stands now – the cuts disappear on Jan. 1, 2011.

Think of what could happen if we do not repeal this "sunset." On Jan. 1, 2011, American taxpayers would be hit by a major, across-the-board income-tax rate hike. Many married couples would again receive the unwelcome wedding gift of higher federal taxes. A single mother could wake up to find that her

\$1,000 child credit is now only worth \$500. For many family-owned businesses, death will continue to be a taxable event. Contribution limits for IRAs and 401(k) plans will drop, discouraging increased retirement savings.

This begs the question: if the sunset creates such problems, why was it written into law? The reason relates to Senate rules. It was added to sidestep opponents' threats to kill the bill.

In the previous session of Congress, Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and I introduced legislation to make the president's tax-relief plan permanent. The House approved this measure. The Senate failed to act.

When the issue is debated, opponents claim permanent tax relief is too costly. I respond: compared to what? If Congress fails to act, the real cost will be borne by individual taxpayers who will be subjected to a massive tax hike.

The new Congress must act swiftly to make tax relief permanent. This common-sense legislation would prevent a massive tax hike, make it easier for families and businesses to plan ahead, and boost the U.S. economy. A bipartisan majority voted to enact tax relief in 2001. If it was good policy then, it remains good policy now.

Rep. Bob Matsui
D-Calif.

OPPOSE



The past two years have been hard ones for many American families and for the national economy. Our primary goals now must be to get this economy moving, create jobs and restore fiscal responsibility. To achieve these aims, our economic policy should live up to three important criteria. First, it should be affordable, meaning it will not cause long-term damage to our economy by weighing it down with debt. Second, it should lead to an immediate boost in economic growth. Finally, our economic policy should be fair; all Americans must benefit, not just a select few at the top. Making President Bush's tax cut permanent fails on each count.

We cannot afford such a large and skewed tax cut while funding the long list of domestic and international priorities we face. Permanent extension would cost an astounding \$4 trillion, just as the baby-boom generation begins to retire and collect Social Security. We would put an impossible financial burden on our country when we can least afford it.

Permanent extension will do nothing to revive economic growth in the short term, since the tax cuts do not expire until 2011. In order to revive the economy, we need to spur consumer demand now by putting money in the pockets of average Americans who are most likely to spend it. That means targeted tax cuts for middle-class families, not far-off tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.

This tax cut was unfair when conceived, and making it permanent will only compound the problem. The wealthiest 1 percent of taxpayers will receive twice as much in tax cuts as the bottom 60 percent of filers and more in one year than the entire annual budget of the Department of Veterans Affairs. We should remedy this type of striking inequity, not make it a permanent part of the U.S. Tax Code.

Making the tax cut permanent would take our country in the wrong direction and do real economic damage. American families would benefit most from a more responsible economic policy.

When the issue is debated, opponents claim permanent tax relief is too costly. I respond: compared to what?

This tax cut was unfair when conceived, and making it permanent will only compound the problem.

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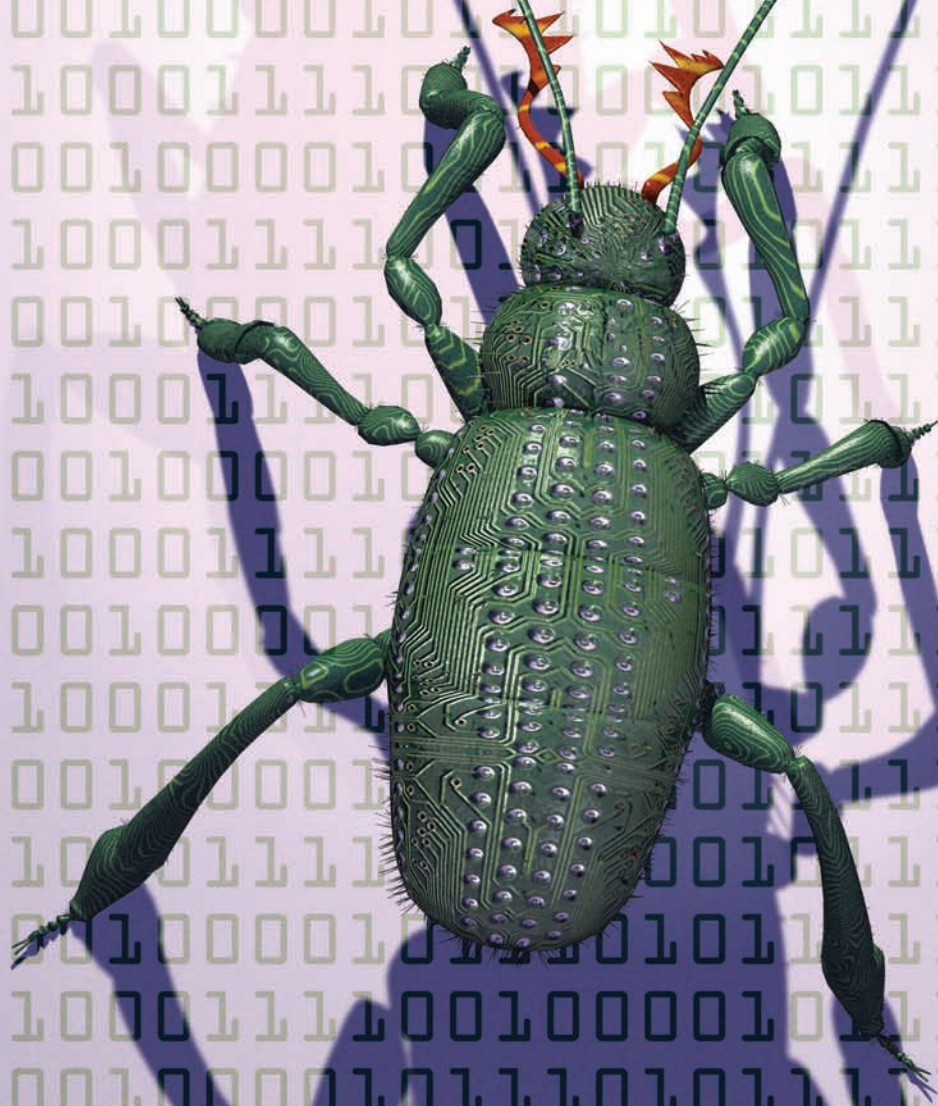
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The Reality of Cyberterrorism



Poorly protected computer systems put America at risk for an electronic Pearl Harbor.

BY WINN SCHWARTAU

Reportedly, al-Qaida is planning more attacks against U.S. interests, and some may come in the form of cyberterrorism. Such attacks will be much more deadly than annoying viruses or harassing hackers. Well-orchestrated cyberattacks can be fatal to their victims, highly disruptive to the economy and terrifying to the average American citizen. Imagine massively polluted water supplies, constant regional power outages without rhyme or reason, the sudden and inexplicable collapse of financial systems, communications blackouts and air traffic-control systems going haywire. This is cyberterrorism.

At a June 27, 1991, congressional hearing, I concluded a report by saying, "Government and commercial computer systems are so poorly protected today they can essentially be considered defenseless – an electronic Pearl Harbor waiting to happen."

At the time, detractors said I was overstating the condition and that cyberterrorism simply doesn't exist. They were wrong. Had they heeded those warnings, our country might be much more secure

today. Instead, things are worse.

Effective cyberterrorism hinges on several key concepts.

First is reliance upon technology. The American economy is a national-security asset that needs to be protected. Critical U.S. infrastructures include transportation, power distribution, communications, finance, water and emergency services.

In their purest form, cyberterrorism and information warfare are conflicts without bombs, bullets or bayonets. It is conflict in which computers and information are the weapons and the targets, and the effects are just as deadly as well-placed explosives.

An asymmetrical adversary has inherent advantages over those potential combatants who "play by the rules." Such is the modus operandi of terrorists.

Folly of Our Optimism. Let's look at the position in which America and much of modern society has placed itself. Our networked society encourages technological advances in every area of our lives. How many computers do you have at home? My mother had 37. Are you including VCRs, televisions, cable boxes, microwave

ovens and alarm clocks? How many are in your car? Try upwards of 30. How many do you use daily without thinking? The gas pump? ATM machine? Super-market checkout?

Despite the conveniences we have created with technology, we have done ourselves a disservice. We never considered the security of our whole network. The Internet was an academic accident that was never meant to be what it has become. Yet without technology, we lose our military and economic superiority.

Ironically, the complexity and sophistication of the technology we have created is one of this country's greatest weaknesses, and some would argue – like Osama bin Laden and his followers – our downfall. We failed to build our technical society with “defense in depth,” a key military concept for thousands of years. We failed in the basics, assuming all who use technology are good guys, and that the bad guys will never use our own technology against us. We now are beginning to recognize the folly of our optimism.

We also failed to deal with graceful degradation, another key military concept. If a company or a society loses important pieces of its technical infrastructure, what services can it fall back on until everything is repaired? Think how many times you have been told, “Sorry, I can't help you. The computers are down.” Airports. Hotels. Telephones. Department stores. Restaurants. Everyday places and things we rely on come to a grinding halt because we don't have a means of continuing business operations without technology. We expect computers to work all the time. We never think otherwise. This reliance on a single variable is a failure in any military model and, certainly, for our country.

War Without Bombs. Three classes of information warfare and cyberterrorism exist. Current U.S. military doctrine is called “information operations,” and it uses many of the following ideas when conduct-

ing any military operation, along with conventional kinetic weapons.

Class I Information Warfare targets the individual. In cyberspace you are guilty until proven innocent, and in the United States, personal privacy is not a legislated right. Databases contain our digital essence. We all tend to believe the contents of the computer, thus computer algorithms determine whether we get a car loan or qualify for health insurance. Recently, a group of criminals stole the electronic identities of 30,000 citizens to the tune of \$100 million. In Bosnia, our adversary researched personal details of senior leaders and bomber pilots, then threatened their families back home. What happens to military morale in such cases?

Class II Information Warfare includes industrial and economic espionage against an organization by an organization or even by a nation-state. British Air allegedly stole Virgin Air customers by illegally accessing their databases. The French, Chinese and Russians – along with more of our “allies” – used extensive spy programs for corporate and national economic gain by eavesdropping on telephone and cell-phone calls, Internet sniffing, cracking passwords, and electronic breaking and entering. The FBI reports that 122 countries have engaged in online industrial/economic spying against the United States, causing economic losses in excess of \$300 billion per year.

Class III Information Warfare is conducted by nations and political, economic and religious spheres of influence from the national to global levels. This includes cyberterrorism by militia-like groups and, in some instances, narco-terrorists buying the same high-end snoop-spy hacking tools and hiring the same experts as governments but paying them a lot more. China's 1998 declaration of “unrestricted war” against the United States and Russia's announcement that information warfare is second only to nuclear warfare underscore the severity and danger of cyberter-

rorism. We also must remember the current breed of terrorist who uses the Internet as a tool and is threatening to attack our critical infrastructures.

Cheating in War. My dad taught me to play chess when I was 3 years old. I never amounted to much more than an average player, but at least it was a fair fight. So is Go, the Japanese game of pebbles, logic and strategy. Chinese checkers. Checkers. Stratego by Parker Brothers. It's all the same idea. Two opposing forces, each with identical resources – gaming pieces – set up in mirror-image pre-conflict positions. The outcome of the game – or conflict – is determined by skill alone. Nothing is left to chance like in backgammon, which adds the unpredictable odds of dice to an otherwise symmetrical conflict.

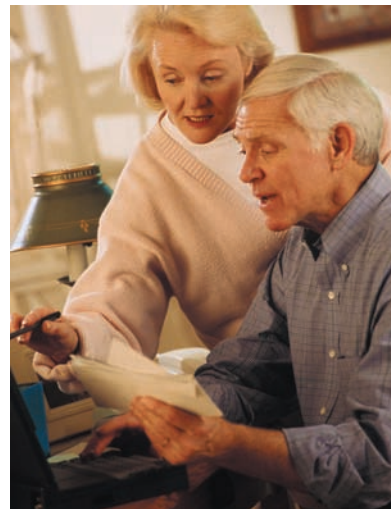
Symmetry means both sides are equally equipped. This is polite war to a fault, and both sides play by the rules. They use available technology to the best of one's advantage just as the chess player uses his pieces to the best of his advantage.

Asymmetry means no rules. We changed the rules in 1945 by dropping two asymmetrical weapons on Japan. That ended a war. Al-Qaida used asymmetry on Sept. 11, 2001. That started a war. Asymmetrical adversaries thrive on simplicity, not complexity. We tend to miscalculate the real ability of low-tech opponents to devise low-cost, low-tech methods to offset capabilities of technologically superior adversaries.

Asymmetry is what gives terrorists their strength. They operate outside the box of accepted international behavior, with a few notable nation-state exceptions. When we examine our potential adversaries from a cultural standpoint, their value systems can be radically different than those of the United States, Europe, Russia or even China. Air Force lawyer Col. Charles Dunlap said, “Our likely future opponents will be unlike

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ourselves.” That future is today.

What Could Happen? Computers do not attack computers – people do. Cyberterrorism is all about people doing bad things to other people by using technology as a weapon.

The world is not short of anti-Americanism, yet our open Western society and educational system train current and future enemies in engineering, warfare and cultural adaptation. It is critically important to realize more than 80 percent of all cybercrimes and computer abuse is caused by trusted insiders, people who the organization let inside the physical and electronic doors of their company but who were in reality only out to harm their employer. Think technical “sleepers” and you get the picture.

Organized crime has used this technique to pass people through security checks – in other words, people who have never been caught and without criminal records – into low-paying jobs on cleaning staffs and guard details. They have free reign of their future victims’ facilities. Cyberterrorists use the same simple logic to bypass our security.

What can cyberterrorists do? Poison water supplies through manipulation of filtering and purification processes; electronically shut down an entire airport; cause the largest electronic stores and news services to go out of business for a full day; force regional blackouts; change records so that hospital patients are given the wrong medicines; steal hundreds of millions of dollars from banks; shut down portions of the telephone network; disable 80 percent of the Internet; and cut the wires on key electronic-funds systems so cash becomes unavailable to tens of millions of people.

What do these scenarios have in common? They all have already occurred.

At the far end of the spectrum, things only get worse – and that’s what the Department of Homeland Security and the White House worry about daily: open the flood gates

on a dam and deluge nearby communities. New Orleans is a prime target since it is below sea level. Power could be shut down during a major freeze in a northern city and all traffic lights could remain green on high-speed thoroughfares. Evidence suggests that military-style weapons have been used to shoot high-energy pulses, causing cars to spin out of control and bank systems to fail. We also can expect to see electronic bombs on airplanes cause fly-by-wire systems to fail. Subtle changes in refrigerator temperatures in food-storage facilities can allow bacteria to grow and infect the population. Altering the electronic controls on nuclear reactors can introduce meltdown.

We have a lot of catching up to do if we are to get ahead of the curve defensively. Militarily, we are No. 1. In an asymmetrical conflict, such as the war against terror, we must rethink our status.

What Do We Do? We must trade our traditional American proportional response policy for one of over-reaction. Sticking with the antiquated proportional response gives the asymmetrical adversary an advantage in knowing the contents of our “policy box” and our sociopolitical limitations. We need nonproportional response if we are to keep our adversaries at bay.

Terrorists who hide behind the physical borders of nation-states know that the United States can do little alone. International agreement and new modes of operation in a transnational virtual world require new agreements, cooperation and capabilities. Australia recently announced it would take action in other countries, without their permission, against suspected terrorists.

If an organization finds itself under a virtual cyberattack, should it be permitted to take the law into its own hands? The vigilante concept is growing in popularity.

Today it is illegal for companies to disarm online assailants. That is the height of stupidity when the only other response is to suck in, absorb the blow and do nothing or let functionality suffer for the

sake of enhanced security. The only legal response is to let the bad guys win. We must rewrite the laws to permit the electronic weapons of our adversaries to be electronically removed.

We must adapt dynamic defenses in distinction to classic military fortress mentality. Time is the metric of security. Let’s learn how to shut down our systems in graceful degradation.

The United States should have to comply with the December 1948 U.N. Declaration of Human Rights, which specified privacy as a citizen’s guarantee. Let’s give Americans back their privacy before any more of it is lost.

The rear-echelon attack as discussed by former Gen. John Sheehan is a large U.S. military weakness. The military uses the same civilian infrastructure for much of its operations: finances, communications and more. Yet the protection for these unclassified systems is out of the military’s control.

Given that cyberterrorists can operate from anywhere in the world with the same effectiveness as if they were across the street, new modes of defense, new laws and new levels of cooperation are required. An international caller-ID mechanism for commerce and legitimate usage could significantly raise the bar in cyberdefense. Given that the legal system is years behind in technology, a parallel technocentric legal structure should be used. Given that cyberterrorism can cause significant economic and life-threatening scenarios requires that we, as a vigilant nation, take proactive steps in identifying, tracking down and capturing cyberterrorists before their malicious tasks are complete.

The alternative is not just a cyberdefeat, but defeat. Period. □

Winn Schwartau is president of Interpact Inc. He is a leading expert on information security, infrastructure protection and electronic privacy. He is author of “Internet & Computer Ethics for Kids.”

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The New NATO

*Friends in Eastern
Europe are shifting
the alliance's
balance of power.*



BY ALAN W. DOWD

With handshakes and toasts, NATO leaders used the recent Prague Summit to invite Slovenia, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania into the most successful and enduring military alliance in history. NATO's rapid expansion into what was once enemy territory may have grabbed all the headlines, but the alliance altered far more than its membership roster in Prague.

For the second time in just four years, NATO is changing its mission to respond to a changed world. As U.S. Ambassador to NATO Nicholas Burns puts it, "We're deconstruct-

ing the old NATO to build a new one to meet the threat of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction." Whether the middle-aged alliance has the endurance and flexibility to shoulder this new mission remains to be seen.

From Berlin to bin Laden? When NATO's founding fathers gathered in Washington to create the alliance in 1949, their primary concern was protecting Western Europe from the Red Army. In an unusual display of candor for a diplomat, NATO's first secretary general described the organization's mission as "keeping the Russians out, the Americans in and the Germans down." Moscow pushed in Berlin and all across the European front, but NATO pushed back. The United States became a European power, and Germany finally found its place in a wider community.

However, by the time NATO turned 50, both the

alliance and its mission were in need of an overhaul. After eight years of ethnic warfare and 250,000 deaths, the Balkans were still hemorrhaging. And after a full decade of independence from Moscow, the rest of Eastern Europe was clamoring for security. It was in this atmosphere that NATO embraced a new mission in 1999. No longer would the alliance simply defend Western Europe; it would stabilize Eastern Europe, making "full use of every opportunity to build an undivided continent by promoting and fostering the vision of a Europe whole and free."

As if to underscore those words, the alliance added Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary into the fold – and then went to war over tiny Kosovo, the besieged Albanian enclave in southern Serbia. Europe reaped immediate benefits from NATO expansion: as a precondition of joining the alliance, Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic were required to iron out long-standing territorial and ethnic disputes with their neighbors, liberalize their economies and westernize their political systems.

However, plenty of problems surfaced during NATO's Kosovo intervention: the generals underestimated the enemy, the politicians micromanaged the generals and, after 50 years of practice, NATO seemed strangely ill-prepared to fight – all of which explains the qualms expressed by Congress. But four years later, even the critics have to concede that Europe is a better place because of NATO's decision to march eastward. The Balkans are stable. Milosevic is rotting away in a jail cell. And the continent is arguably freer and more united than it has ever been.

Yet the same cannot be said for the rest of the globe. As Europe came together, the rest of the world has come apart. Not only did Sept. 11 shatter the post-Cold War illusion of a united world, it challenged NATO to reevaluate its



A U.S. Air Force security guard mans a machine gun at the entrance of NATO's base at Tirana Airport in Albania. *corbis*

place and purpose. As President George W. Bush observed in Prague, "Our NATO alliance faces dangers very different from those it was formed to confront. Yet never has our need for collective defense been more urgent." The dangers come not from Soviet divisions plowing through the Fulda Gap but from failed states and rogue regimes on faraway continents where terrorism breeds.

As a consequence, the running post-Cold War argument over NATO's role beyond Europe is now closed. As French ambassador to NATO Benoit D'Aboville observes, that dispute "has fallen away with the Twin Towers." NATO is not yet prepared to become the top cop in the global fight against terror, but it is ready to join the posse.

According to NATO Secretary General George Robertson, "For our people and our societies, terrorism poses a mortal danger – a danger we must protect ourselves against here and now."

Hard Choices, Hard Feelings.

The new NATO will be characterized not just by a longer reach, but by new command procedures and new capabilities. The alliance needs all three to be effective in the global fight against terror.

In Robertson's view, "NATO's credibility comes from its capability." Hoping to enhance their joint capabilities, NATO leaders have agreed to forge a 21,000-man rapid-reaction force. First proposed by Washington, the NATO Response Force will be something like an all-star team: countries will voluntarily contribute specialty units, thereby accentuating their strengths and enhancing flexibility. Deployable both in Europe and beyond, the ad-hoc force will be outfitted with the latest in high-tech weaponry: heavy-lift cargo planes to move troops and equipment rapidly, mid-air refuelers to extend the range of warplanes, precision-guided weapons to limit both civilian casualties and the duration of war and modern communications assets to speed the movement of information.

The only NATO member that has integrated all of these 21st-

century capabilities into its military is the United States, as was painfully evident in Afghanistan.

Just days after the attacks on America, NATO invoked Article V, its all-for-one collective defense clause. Soon, NATO planes were deployed to the United States to monitor the skies for hostile or suspicious aircraft. But the deployments, like the sincere statement of solidarity expressed in Article V, were more symbolic than substantive. After years of miniscule investments in defense, there simply wasn't much NATO could do collectively to help Washington in the campaign against al-Qaida and the Taliban. This should come as no surprise: America's 2003 increase in military spending was actually more than the total defense outlays of any European government. To borrow a phrase from scripture, NATO's spirit was willing, but the body was weak.

There were notable individual exceptions in Afghanistan: Great Britain had both the means and the will to join America in the first counterstrike against the global terror axis. Other NATO nations contributed after the Taliban was routed. Turkey led the International Security Assistance Force in and around Kabul. Germany, France and a handful of other NATO allies sent units to clear caves. But their role was limited, and Washington's invitation came late, causing hard feelings in Europe.

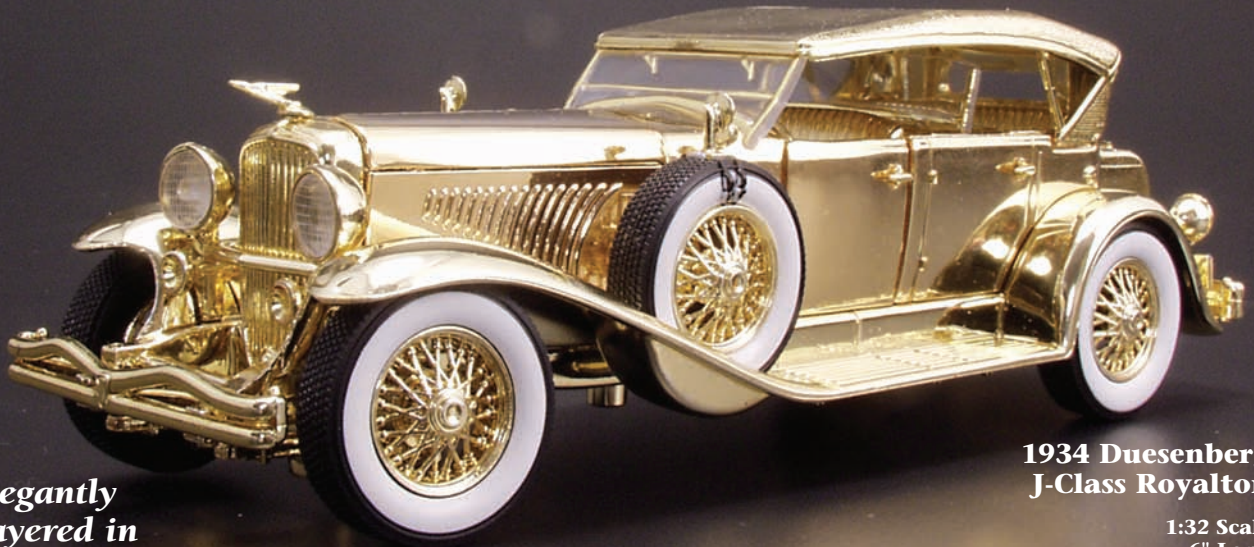
Still, this asymmetry of power was a problem long before Afghanistan. When NATO used air strikes to muscle Bosnian Serbs to the peace table in 1995, 75 percent of the raids were conducted by two air forces: the American and British. Four years later, during the Kosovo War, U.S. warplanes constituted more than 65 percent of the NATO air armada. A study by *The Economist* conducted during the Kosovo War revealed that only 10 percent of NATO's European combat aircraft were capable of precision bombing. As Lt. Gen. Michael Short, who helped plan the Kosovo air campaign, bluntly concluded, "We've got an A-team and a B-team now."

War by Committee. Of course, more is at work here than Europe's relative military weakness. The Kosovo War no doubt affected Washington's confidence in NATO's capacity to conduct military operations. As *The Economist* lamented, "Europe's real weakness in security matters lies not in a shortage of cruise missiles, but in a deep reluctance – born of years of letting America do the hard geopolitical work – to think strategically." For example, in the first hours of the Kosovo campaign, Greece and Italy called for a bombing pause. Germany publicly dismissed Britain's suggestion of a ground attack. Britain retained veto power over anything targeted by British-based B-52s. France vetoed "sensitive" targets throughout the war. Hence, Short's initial target list of thousands was chopped down to hundreds by NATO's less-hawkish members. In fact, only 53 targets were hit on the war's opening night. Belgrade wasn't even hit until the 11th day of the air campaign. "Instead of a fierce, full-out attack at the beginning, hammering away at all targets," recalls historian David Halberstam in his book "War in a Time of Peace," "the number of targets, the importance of the targets and the number of planes had been greatly reduced."

However, the most critical internal dispute came as a Russian brigade lunged at the Pristina airport. When American NATO Commander Wes Clark ordered British Gen. Michael Jackson to seize the airport, Jackson refused. Both men then appealed to their national commanders, a practice permitted under NATO's vague and unwieldy war-fighting conventions. Hours later, Washington and London concluded that NATO's unity was more important than Kosovo's airport. A humiliated Clark was forced to rescind his order.

The result was a war that took weeks rather than days to finish, a peace that was almost lost and a lingering question mark over future NATO operations, which by definition will be multinational. As Sen. John Warner, R-Va., asked after learning of the Clark-Jackson

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At the Prague Summit in late November, President Bush challenged Western Europe by insisting that a stronger NATO is in the best interests of America. **NATO**

standoff, “How do you run a military operation if the subordinates can decide they don’t want to follow the supreme commander?”

Recognizing no good answer exists to Warner’s question, NATO leaders vowed in Prague to create “a leaner, more streamlined, effective and deployable command structure.” That’s a good sign; however, this new structure is still largely on the drawing board. That’s why Robertson is only partly right: new capabilities are important, but they are no more important than a workable command structure, which is no more important than agreement among NATO’s political leaders. As Gen. Klaus Naumann, former chief of NATO’s military committee, concludes, “We need to find a way to reconcile the conditions of coalition war with the principle of military operations such as surprise and overwhelming force.” In other words, when (or if) NATO’s politicians decide to intervene, operational matters such as tactics, targeting and timing must be left to NATO’s commanding general. NATO simply cannot function as an effective military organization in an age of terror if its commanding officer’s orders are treated as suggestions – and if its battle plans and missions are shaped by the lowest common denominator.

Even with new command proce-

dures and new hardware, it will still be difficult for a consensus-based organization of 26 sovereign nations to agree on waging war. Simply put, it’s much easier to play defense than to plan and execute an offense. And as we wade ever deeper into this global war, one wonders if new command procedures will be able to remove the real impediment to collective offensive military action: the increasingly divergent worldviews of Western Europe and the United States. Consider Germany, where Washington’s determination to disarm and dislodge Saddam Hussein was cynically used by leading politicians to sway the autumn elections. Or consider France, which used its seat on the U.N. Security Council not to assist its NATO allies, but to delay and distract them.

Given this record and these realities, one can hardly blame Washington for deciding to prosecute the anti-terror campaign independent of Brussels.

Shifting Alliances? NATO’s struggle to make the transition from defense to offense could be a simple matter of growing pains, but it raises the very real possibility that the alliance will do more talking than acting in the war on terror. And if that happens, the hard feelings will spread to both sides of the Atlantic. However, the Prague Summit may

help avoid that messy prospect. At Prague, Bush made it clear that America needs NATO – but not the bureaucratic and balky NATO of yesterday. “A strong and vibrant NATO is in the best interests of America, so we’ll be active and good partners,” he vowed, adding pointedly that “we expect the same from our NATO friends.”

Western Europeans seem to have gotten the message. As one French official conceded, “If we do not deliver on the NRF, we could be blamed for reducing the alliance to a mere diplomatic and political prop for the United States.”

However, Washington isn’t alone in challenging Western Europe. Eastern Europeans are rapidly shifting the balance of power within NATO. Indeed, NATO’s newest members are arguably its most pro-American, and as the Prague Summit illustrated, they are forming an alliance within the alliance. Seeking to downplay the differences separating Germany and France from the United States and Britain, NATO’s post-summit communiqué merely mouthed the watered-down U.N. resolution on Iraq, notably stopping short of committing forces to any campaign against Saddam. But NATO’s seven newest members joined NATO aspirants Albania, Croatia and Macedonia in issuing their own communiqué that announced their intention “to contribute to an international coalition to enforce ... the disarmament of Iraq.”

In committing their tiny armies to military action, Eastern Europe’s courageous leaders may have done more than simply stand with America and Britain: perhaps they reminded their western neighbors what it means to be in an alliance. □

Alan W. Dowd is assistant vice president at the Hudson Institute, a public-policy think tank in Indianapolis.

Article design: Doug Rollison

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Designing Men

While the moral and legal impact of cloning fuels hot political debate, science is producing hard dilemmas.



BY JAY STULLER

In the beginning, man created Dolly. Born on a cool February day in 1997 near the city of Edinburgh, she looked much like any other lamb in Scotland. As with all other sheep, Dolly sprang from the womb of a ewe. And yet, because she didn't originate through the union of sperm and egg – actually, it was an embryo containing the genes of only one parent – Dolly became a magazine supermodel.

The world's first genetic copy of a creature more complex than a frog, Dolly captured the imaginations of disease researchers and infertile couples alike. After all, if one could clone genetically modified organs taken from animals or grown from human pa-

tients, the parts could replace diseased hearts, kidneys and livers. Couples with hopeless reproductive disorders could finally have a child that's a true genetic offspring – a clone with the genes of at least one parent.

To others, Dolly was a sheep in wolves' clothing.

Esteemed professor and public policy analyst James Q. Wilson noted that average people instinctively recoil from the notion of cloning, which calls forth a “mental picture of identical babies being produced in some biological factory,” perhaps grown only for their body parts.

Another commentator wrote that it wasn't hard to imagine “a veritable army of Hitlers, ruthless and remorseless ... reproducing themselves until

they finished what the historic Hitler failed to do.”

In any event, roughly six years after Dolly there are no new Hitlers. Science is finding cloning far more difficult than once imagined. In February 2001, researchers at Texas A&M announced they'd produced the world's first cloned kitten, known as “CC,” short for carbon copy, but only after many deadly failures. Dolly died recently at age 6, after suffering from premature arthritis.

This is not to say that a human has not been cloned.

Brigitte Boisselier, director of Clonaid – a company founded by the Raelian religion – announced in late December the alleged birth of a cloned baby to an American couple. Skeptical scientists doubt the company's

claim without independent DNA testing.

Ultimate Decision. U.S. policymakers are stumbling toward a position on cloning, skinning knees and pulling hamstrings in the process. Established in January 2001 and charged with developing a cohesive take on cloning, the president's 18-member Council on Bioethics recommended a complete ban on human cloning for reproduction, but only a four-year moratorium on cloning for research. Conservatives were left bitterly disappointed by what some called the council's "stop-gap measure."

Elsewhere, South Korea has banned all forms of human cloning, and the United Nations is seeking a worldwide treaty to do the same thing. But while the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill outlawing cloning for any purpose, the Senate, as of this writing, had still failed to call a vote on its version of the legislation.

The delays are largely the result of an American society that's still engaged a fiery debate over on the use of human embryos for reproductive cloning and most any other type of medical research. At stake are not only hopes for infertile couples but also treatments for diseases that affect roughly 100 million Americans. While the ultimate decision will force sacrifices – a choice between embryos or ill adults – the debate is currently far ahead of the science.

"Much of what you hear today about cloning humans is a sideshow," says Dr. Gregory Stock, the director of the Program on Medicine, Technology and Society at UCLA. The author of a new book called *"Redesigning Humans: Our Inevitable Genetic Future,"* Stock says he feels that many arguments against cloning are the stuff of science fiction. Even if cloning works, "the idea of growing people to harvest organs is not going to happen in a lawful society," he says. "Chop-

'... growing people to harvest organs is not going to happen in a lawful society. Chopping an organ out of a clone would be just as much a murder as killing any other person.'

– Dr. Gregory Stock,
director of the Program on Medicine,
Technology and Society at UCLA

ping an organ out of a clone would be just as much a murder as killing any other person."

What's of more concern to Stock is a ban that stops all embryonic and stem-cell research. If Congress is persuaded to "convey human rights to a few cells in a Petri dish, research into promising cures for Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and other diseases would come to a halt," he says. "To me that's the *real* disregard for human life."

Still, others insist that messy experiments and the potential for abuse offer abundant evidence favoring a ban on cloning. Named in January 2002 to lead the Council on Bioethics, Dr. Leon Kass – a University of Chicago professor and bioethics expert – is a leading opponent of cloning. In congressional testimony last year, Kass called cloning "a serious evil" and a "giant step toward turning procreation into manufacture." He also said "permitting human cloning means saying yes to the dangerous principle that we are entitled to determine and design the genetic makeup of children. It's very important that we think deeply about these things. The future of humanity hangs in the balance."

Pros and Cons. Cloning is far from the first time man has tried to control nature. Ever since humans learned to make tools and manage fire, we've struggled to live longer, more securely and prosperously. Most discoveries produced benefits, but also unintended consequences. After all,

the first sailing ship – known in Greek mythology as the *Argo* – represents the origin of culture and the start of its decline. That's because while sailing ships made it possible to explore and trade, the vessels also brought pirates, pillagers and plague.

Of course, cross-breeding the genetics of plants and superior domesticated animals has yielded tremendous benefits and few downsides. According to a recent report from the National Academy of Sciences, cloned cows and

pigs could be a boon to American farmers and the nation's food supply. With an ability to copy only the most prodigious pork and milk producers, farmers could concentrate only on top-quality stock.

Although worried about the effect genetically engineered animals could have if they escaped and entered the wild population – a definite concern as genetically altered farmed salmon mingle with ocean species – the academy believes the duplication from cloning alleviates most of those fears. The genes of these animals will not be altered. As Eric Hallerman, a biologist at the Virginia Polytechnic and State University, told *The Washington Post*, "The concern about food safety, we thought, was just way overblown."

Humans, though, are another thing. The very idea of cross-breeding people to improve the species, called "eugenics," has seldom won favor – other than with leaders in the Third Reich. An appreciation for the unpredictable ways kids turn out is a fundamental part of the human condition. If perfected, cloning would remove some of the guesswork.

Fundamentally, cloning is simply an alternate form of reproduction. But instead of a random mixing of genes from a mother and father, a clone carries the identical genetics of one individual.

The process starts with an egg harvested from a donor – be it a sheep, cat or female human. The nucleus of the egg, which contains the DNA of the egg

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donor, is removed. Then cells are harvested from the animal or person to be cloned and are fused into the hollowed-out egg, which is then chemically treated or shocked into behaving as if it's a fertilized egg. Finally, if the transplanted cells inside the donor egg begin reproducing, it can turn into an embryo – ready for transplantation into a host mother. The lamb, kitten or baby is a genetic replica of the creature that donated the cells.

It is seldom a perfect replica, and it's not full-sized. "I would hope people are past the idea that cloning would let you reproduce full-grown, adult copies of a person," says Dr. Arthur Caplan, the director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center. "And it's not as if clones are completely 'unnatural.' Twins are clones. What you'd get with cloning is something like a delayed twin. But it starts with a baby. And because environment has such a huge impact on how a person turns out, it's unlikely a clone would grow up to be a copy of the donor."

Perhaps more important is an issue that lurks down the road beyond cloning, which is the idea of designing better babies, Caplan adds, "Parents will want to make better and improved children. That's genetic engineering, not cloning."

Still, cloning is the first "giant step" of which Kass spoke, a science driven in part by the powerful desire by people to have children. And this is not the first time reproductive issues are behind social discord. When introduced in the 1940s, artificial insemination was viewed by some as a form of adultery. The technique today is no more or less controversial than adoption.

Concerns also arose with the development of in-vitro fertilization, when sperm and eggs are united in a lab and then the subsequent embryo is placed into the womb of the original mother or a

'My main worry is over what you do with the mistakes. It's a question that people who want to do cloning keep ignoring. In the animal experiments, only one in 200 tries produces survivors, and many of them have serious illnesses and problems. So what happens when you make a sick or defective baby? Creating that kind of suffering is truly unethical.'

– Dr. Arthur Caplan,
director of the Center for Bioethics at the
University of Pennsylvania Medical Center

surrogate, and then carried to term. "Very few people now get worked up about 'test-tube' babies," Stock observes.

That evolution of thought is precisely what concerns Kass. Since the birth of Dolly, he says, talk of human cloning "has gone from 'Yuck' to 'Oh?' to 'Gee whiz' to 'Why not?'" He warns the undecided against being seduced by either familiarity with the idea or humanitarian arguments on behalf of the infertile and those who wish to replace a child who has died.

To Kass, these well-intended ideas merely open the door to monstrous things, such as "the bizarre prospect of a woman bearing and rearing a genetic copy of herself, her spouse or deceased parent." Kass also questions "the narcissism of those who would clone themselves and think they know who deserves to be cloned," especially "men playing at being God."

A Question of Ethics. Caplan says he is less concerned about the future implications of cloning and more about what's happening today. "For one thing, I think the more we learn about cloning, the further off it gets," he explains. "My main worry is over what you do with the mistakes. It's a ques-

tion that people who want to do cloning keep ignoring. In the animal experiments, only one in 200 tries produces survivors, and many of them have serious illnesses and problems. So what happens when you make a sick or defective baby? Creating that kind of suffering is truly unethical."

But suffering is what therapeutic cloning, using stem cells and embryos, is meant to ease. Without argument, the goal is noble. The process raises questions.

"It really comes down to what society decides about the status of an embryo," says Dr. Russell Connors Jr., a Catholic scholar and an assistant professor of theology at the College of St. Katherine in St. Paul, Minn. "Science is

not the enemy. It's how we use it. And there's evolving church doctrine which asserts that God is working through man, that human ingenuity can be seen as expression of God's will."

Connors makes it clear that the Catholic Church contends that life, although not necessarily a person, begins with the fertilization of an egg. "Therefore," he says, "an embryo is life that ought to be protected. If you hold that to be true, then all your subsequent questions on cloning are pretty easy to answer. You don't create life with an intention to destroy it."

While Caplan favors a ban on human reproductive cloning, he says he believes the research will continue, somewhere, somehow. "Whether we like it or not, sooner or later there will be a cloned human."

When all is said and done in this world of 6 billion individuals, a clone may ultimately become just another person – as ordinary and extraordinary as God intended for all of us, when, on the sixth day, He first made man. □

Jay Stuller is a freelance writer who resides in Northern California.

Article design: Doug Rollison



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'Rope-a-Dope in the Desert'

*Why Iraq is a
critical threat in
the war on terror.*

Editor's note: Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz made the case for disarming Iraq when he spoke before the Council for Foreign Relations in New York on Jan. 23. The following is an excerpt of that speech.

The threat posed by the connection between terrorist networks and states that possess weapons of mass terror presents us with the danger of a catastrophe that could be worse than Sept. 11. Iraq's weapons of mass terror and the terror networks to which the Iraqi regime are linked are not two separate themes, not two separate threats. They are part of the same threat.

Disarming Iraq and the war on terror are not merely related. Disarming Iraq of its chemical and biological weapons and dismantling its nuclear-weapons program is a crucial part of winning the war on terror. Iraq has had 12 years now to disarm, as it agreed to do at the conclusion of the Gulf War. But, so far, it has treated disarmament like a game of hide-and-seek, or, as Secretary of State Colin Powell has termed it, "rope-a-dope in the desert."

We are dealing with a threat to the security of our nation and the world ... U.N. Security Council Resolution 1441 gave Saddam



Hussein one last chance to choose a path of cooperative disarmament, one that he was obliged to take and agreed to take 12 years ago ...

The United States entered this process hopeful that it could eliminate the threat posed by Iraq's weapons of mass terror without

having to resort to force. And we've put more than just our hopes into this process. Last fall, the Security Council requested member states to give "full support" to U.N. inspectors ... Let's consider for a moment what inspectors can do and what they can't. As the case of South Africa and other success stories demonstrate, inspection teams can do a great deal to verify the dismantling of a program if they are working with a cooperative government that wants to prove to the world it has disarmed. It is not the job of inspectors to disarm Iraq; it is Iraq's job to disarm itself ...

Think about it for a moment. When an auditor dis-

*Even when inspectors were in
Iraq before, the Baghdad regime
was building and retaining
weapons of mass terror.
It would be folly to think
that those efforts stopped
when the inspectors left.*

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covers discrepancies in the books, it is not the auditor's obligation to prove where the embezzler has stashed his money. It is up to the person or institution being audited to explain the discrepancy. It is quite unreasonable to expect a few hundred inspectors to search every potential hiding place in a country the size of France ... Nor is it the inspectors' role to find Saddam's hidden weapons when he lies about them and conceals them. That would make them not inspectors, but detectives, charged with going through that vast country, climbing through tunnels and searching private homes. Sending a few hundred inspectors to search an area the size of the state of California would be to send them on a fool's errand or to play a game. And let me repeat: this is not a game.

Indeed, with its Dec. 7 declaration, Iraq resumed a familiar process of deception. Secretary Powell called that 12,200-page document a catalog of recycled information and brazen omissions that the secretary said "totally fails to meet the resolution's requirements. Most brazenly of all, the Iraqi declaration denies the existence of any prohibited weapons programs at all."

Among those omissions are large quantities of anthrax and other deadly biological agents and nuclear-related items that the U.N. Special Commission concluded Iraq had not accounted for. There are also gaps in accounting for such deadly items as 1.5 tons of the nerve gas VX, 550 mustard-filled artillery shells and 400 biological weapons-capable aerial bombs ...

Iraq fails to explain why it's producing missile fuel that seems designed for ballistic missiles it claims it does not have. There is no information on 13 recent Iraqi missile tests cited by (Chief U.N. weapons inspector) Hans Blix that exceeded the 150-kilometer limit. There is no explanation of the connection between Iraq's extensive

*Consider that in 1997,
U.N. inspectors found Iraq
had produced and weaponized
at least 10 liters of ricin.*

*In concentrated form,
that quantity of ricin is
enough to kill more than
1 million people.*

unmanned aerial-vehicle program and chemical or biological agent dispersal. There is no information about Iraq's mobile biological-weapons production facilities. And, very disturbingly, Iraq has not accounted for some two tons of anthrax ... Iraq's national policy is not to disarm but rather to hide its weapons of mass terror ... It is a shell game played on a grand scale with deadly serious weapons.

More recently, Iraq has again begun referring to the inspectors as spies, clearly hoping to make them uncomfortable at best and afraid at worst, and to intimidate Iraqis from interacting with them.

For Iraqis, there is nothing subtle about the intimidation. As President Bush stated so correctly, and as numerous reports by Human Rights Watch and other organizations confirm, "The dictator of Iraq is a student of Stalin, using murder as a tool of terror and control, within his own cabinet, within his own army, and even within his own family."

Today, Iraqi obstruction continues on large issues as well as small ones. Authorities that Resolution 1441 confers unconditionally on the inspectors are constantly subject to conditions by the Baghdad regime. For example, the resolution requires that the U.N. inspectors shall have "free and unrestricted use and landing of fixed- and rotary-winged aircraft, including manned and unmanned reconnaissance vehicles." But Iraq has objected to U-2 flights and shoots at our Predators.

Even when inspectors were in Iraq before, the Baghdad regime was building and retaining

weapons of mass terror. It would be folly to think that those efforts stopped when the inspectors left. Consider that in 1997, U.N. inspectors found Iraq had produced and weaponized at least 10 liters of ricin. In concentrated form, that quantity of ricin is enough to kill more than 1 million people. Baghdad declared to the U.N. inspectors that it had over 19,000 liters of botulinum toxin, enough to kill tens of millions; and

8,500 liters of anthrax, with the potential to kill hundreds of millions. And consider that the U.N. inspectors believe that much larger quantities of biological agents remained undeclared. Indeed, the inspectors think that Iraq has manufactured two to four times the amount of biological agents it has admitted to and has failed to explain the whereabouts of more than two metric tons of raw material for the growth of biological agents. Despite 11 years of inspections and sanctions, containment and military response, Baghdad retains chemical and biological weapons and is producing more. And Saddam's nuclear scientists are still hard at work.

As the president put it, "The history, the logic and the facts lead to one conclusion: Saddam Hussein's regime is a grave and gathering danger. To suggest otherwise is to hope against the evidence. To assume the regime's good faith is to bet the lives of millions and the peace of the world in a reckless gamble. And this is a risk we must not take."

For people who cherish freedom and seek peace, these are indeed difficult times. But such times can deepen our understanding of the truth. And this truth we know: the single greatest threat to peace and freedom in our time is terrorism. So this truth we must also affirm: the truth does not belong to tyrants and terrorists. The truth belongs to those who dream the oldest and noblest dream of all: the dream of peace and freedom. □

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Academia vs. America

*Since the 1960s, universities
have become havens for displaced
radicals and political agitation.*





BY ROGER KIMBALL

In the 1960s and 1970s, the famous commentator Susan Sontag made a career of promoting highbrow anti-Americanism. America, she complained, was a “mechanized, anxious, television-brainwashed” society, a country “founded on genocide” and that in its maturity indulged in a “lethal” barbarism. She described America as cancerous, inorganic, dead, coercive and authoritarian. After the World Trade Center was destroyed on Sept. 11, 2001, she wrote in *The New Yorker* magazine: “Where is the acknowledgment that this was not a ‘cowardly’ attack on ‘civilization’ or ‘liberty’ or ‘humanity’ or ‘the free world’ but an attack on the

world’s self-proclaimed superpower, undertaken as a consequence of specific American alliances and actions?”

While most Americans expressed outrage about the attacks, the prevailing elite liberal opinion was more likely to search for an excuse, an extenuation, a rationalization, anything but a clear-cut denunciation for an unwarranted act of terrorism. Immediately after the attacks, Reuters news agency refused to describe the perpetrators as terrorists. The reasoning was that one man’s terrorist was another man’s freedom fighter. Not everyone went as far as the playwright Harold Pinter, who described the United States as “the greatest source of terrorism on earth.” But many liberal commentators agreed with the classicist Mary Beard, who reported that in England many people felt that “however tactfully you dress it up, the United States had it coming.”



Academia's Anti-Americanism.

Nowhere are such sentiments more common than in academia. Consider the case of Barbara Foley, a professor of English at Rutgers University in New Jersey. In the wake of the deadly assaults on New York and Washington, Foley posted a message on the Internet for her students. It dealt partly with readings for the class, partly with the terrorist attacks. "We should be aware that, whatever its proximate cause," Foley wrote, "its ultimate cause is the fascism of u.s. [sic] foreign policy over the past many decades."

Take the much-publicized case of Peter N. Kirstein, a tenured professor of history at St. Xavier University in Chicago. Last fall, Kirstein received a form e-mail letter from a cadet at the U.S. Air Force Academy soliciting help publicizing a symposium on the theme "America's Challenges in an Unstable World: Balancing Security with Liberty." Kirstein's response deserves to be quoted verbatim:

You are a disgrace to this country and I am furious you would even think I would support you and your aggressive baby killing tactics of collateral damage. Help you recruit. Who, top guns to reign [sic] death and destruction upon nonwhite peoples throughout the world? Are you serious sir? Resign your commission and serve your country with honour. No war, no air force cowards who bomb countries without AAA, without possibility of retaliation. You are worse than the snipers. You are imperialists who are turning the whole damn world against us. September 11 can be blamed in part for what you and your cohorts have done to the Palestinians, the VC, the Serbs, a

retreating army at Basra. You are unworthy of my support.

Takes your breath away, doesn't it? St. Xavier reprimanded Kirstein and relieved him of his teaching duties for a semester. Under pressure, he apologized for the message but presumably will soon be back molding young minds.

Ironically, 'diversity' means 'variety,' yet campuses across America actually encourage strict conformity on all contentious issues.

Selective Diversity. The great irony lurking behind these examples, which could easily be multiplied, centers on the word "diversity." What quality above all others do college administrators and teachers strive to nurture on campus these days? Intellectual rigor? Not likely. After all, rigor presupposes maintaining high standards, and, as we hear repeatedly, high standards are invidious. Houston Baker, a former president of the Modern Language Association, spoke for some in his profession when he said that choosing between Shakespeare and Jacqueline Susann, for instance, is "no different from choosing between a hoagy and a pizza."

"I am one whose career is dedicated to the day when we have a disappearance of those standards," Baker said.

Ironically, "diversity" means "variety," yet campuses across America actually encourage strict conformity on all contentious issues. We have read the stories: the case of campus A, which champions diversity but looks the other way when a conservative student newspaper is confiscated and destroyed; or campus B, where the women's studies program refuses to welcome women who are pro-life; or campus C, where administrators and many prominent faculty members mounted a campaign to prevent the establishment of a local chapter of the National Association of Scholars, a traditional-minded

group of teachers whose motto is "For Reasoned Scholarship in a Free Society."

Consider this item from the University of California-Berkeley English department's fall 2002 course catalog. It was for English R1A, "The Politics and Poetics of Palestinian Resistance," which would earn students four units toward a degree:

The brutal Israeli military occupation of Palestine, [ongoing] since 1948, has systematically displaced, killed and maimed millions of Palestinian people. And yet, from under the brutal weight of the occupation, Palestinians have produced their own culture and poetry of resistance. This class will examine the history of the [resistance] and the way that it is narrated by Palestinians in order to produce an understanding of the Intifada ... This class takes as its starting point the right of Palestinians to fight for their own self-determination. Conservative thinkers are encouraged to seek other sections.

"The Politics and Poetics of Palestinian Resistance" is not an academic or scholarly inquiry. It will not attempt to step back and assess the merits of arguments for and against a certain interpretation of historical events. On the contrary, "conservative thinkers are encouraged to seek other sections." After news of this class made national headlines, Berkeley administrators removed that line, but the class went forward.

The accumulation of anecdotal evidence tells us a lot, but hard data also exists to convince skeptics. *American Enterprise* magazine provided a revealing picture of the political diversity of college faculties in "The Shame of America's One-Party Campuses," an article from its September 2002 issue. "Today's colleges and universities," the article notes, "are *not*, to use the current buzzword, 'diverse' places. Quite the opposite: they are virtual one-party states, ideological monopolies, badly unbalanced ecosystems ... They do

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not, when it comes to political and cultural ideas, look like America."

To support this claim, *American Enterprise* – with some help from the California-based Center for the Study of Popular Culture – visited local boards of elections in the neighborhoods of more than 20 major colleges and universities. They then cross-referenced voter-registration records with faculty rosters for several major departments.

The results were hardly surprising.

At Brown University, for example, five professors of economics were registered in a party of the left, but only one on the right. In engineering, seven were on the left, two on the right.

In the English department, 10 were on the left and none were on the right.

What about history? Seventeen on the left, zero on the right.

Political science? Seven to zero.

Sociology? Eight to zero.

Brown is not an anomaly. At the State University of New York, 15 faculty members in sociology were registered in a party of the left and zero on the right. In political science, the ratio is 20 to 1. At the University of Colorado-Boulder, it's 37 to 0 in English; 28 to 1 in history; 14 to 0 in journalism and 17 to 2 in political science.

The pattern is the same at Harvard, Davidson College, Penn State University, UC-Berkeley, Syracuse University, Pomona College and the University of Maryland. Ditto at Stanford, UCLA and the University of California at Santa Barbara. Among more than 200 faculty members at Williams College, only four are registered Republicans.

The *American Enterprise* survey also reports on a poll of 151 Ivy League professors. Conducted by Frank Luntz Research in 2001, the poll found 3 percent of those surveyed identified themselves as Republican (none identified themselves as "conservative"; 6 percent

'Today's colleges and universities are not, to use the current buzzword, diverse places. Quite the opposite: they are virtual one-party states, ideological monopolies, badly unbalanced ecosystems ... They do not, when it comes to political and cultural ideas, look like America.'

"The Shame of America's One-Party Campuses," *American Enterprise*, September 2002

checked "somewhat conservative"). As for voting, the Luntz survey reported that 84 percent of Ivy League professors voted for Al Gore, 9 percent for George W. Bush and 6 percent for Ralph Nader. The U.S. electorate at large was divided between the major candidates, with 48 percent each for Gore and Bush.

Havens for Displaced Radicals.

What do these surveys tell us? For one thing, as *American Enterprise* notes, they tell us that although "colleges like to characterize themselves as wide-open places ... where all ideals and principles may be pursued freely," in reality "you will find a much wider – and freer – cross-section of human reasoning and conviction in the aisles of any grocery store or city bus."

The wildly skewed political complexion of college faculties is grounds for concern. Among other things, it shows what a travesty the touted ideal of diversity is on many campuses. But more is at stake than a spurious ideal of diversity. In a deeper sense, we are facing not a mere failure but an active repudiation of education as traditionally conceived.

Universities used to be dedicated to the advancement of knowledge. It was understood that if they were to be successful, they had to presuppose what the 19th-

century British poet and critic Matthew Arnold called the ideal of "disinterestedness." In describing criticism as "disinterested," Arnold did not mean that it speaks without reference to a particular point of view. Rather, he meant a habit of inquiry that refused to lend itself to any "ulterior, political, practical considerations about ideas." We might say that Arnold looked to criticism to provide a bulwark against ideology, something that John Searle, a different sort of Berkeley professor, said with his customary lucidity in his 1990 essay "The Storm Over the University": "The idea that the curriculum should be converted to any partisan purposes is a perversion of the ideal of the university."

Since the 1960s, however, universities have become havens for displaced radicals and the humanities' instruments of political agitation. Arnold's vision of the civilizing potential of "the best that has been thought and said" gives way to a smorgasbord of attacks on Western civilization that are a part of the so-called multicultural agenda.

It may be tempting to dismiss such examples as nothing more than the twittering of academics – a group, after all, that is notorious for being out of touch with reality. The problem is that the fate of academic life is not only an academic issue. It is an issue that touches deeply on one of the chief crucibles of the future.

In the late 1800s, the German aphorist G.C. Lichtenberg said, "Nowadays we everywhere seek to propagate wisdom: who knows whether in a couple of centuries there may not exist universities for restoring the old ignorance?"

Now we know. □

Roger Kimball is managing editor of The New Criterion and author of "Tenured Radicals."

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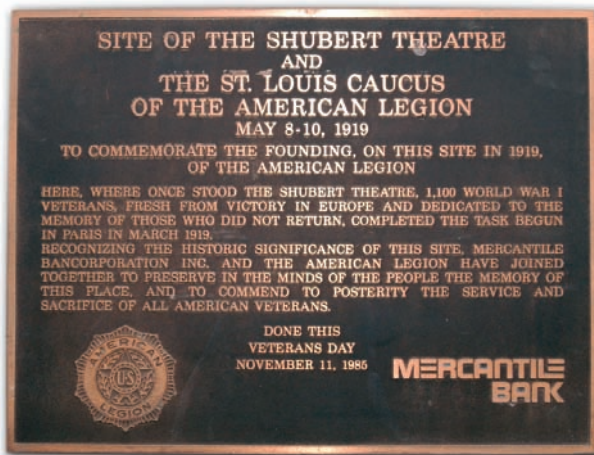
GATEWAY TO THE West

*St. Louis hosts the
85th American Legion
National Convention.*

BY JAMES V. CARROLL

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark headed west in 1804 at the order of President Thomas Jefferson to explore the Louisiana Territory purchased a year earlier by the United States. The journey began in St. Louis. Also in St. Louis, at the Old Courthouse, a courageous slave named Dred Scott sued for his freedom in 1847. It was also here, in 1853, that the first public school west of the Mississippi opened.

St. Louis is a city of firsts. St. Louis hosted the first modern Olympic games in America in 1904. Washington University became the first chartered law school in the country to admit women. The first kindergarten in the United States opened in St. Louis in 1874, and in 1875, the first high school for blacks west of the Mississippi opened. The St. Louis Museum and



A plaque at corner of Olive Street and Tucker Boulevard commemorates first U.S. caucus of The American Legion in 1919. About 1,100 World War I veterans attended. *James V. Carroll*

School of Fine Arts were launched in 1879; it was the first museum west of the Mississippi.

In 1890, a St. Louis physician invented peanut butter as an easy-to-chew source of protein for his elderly patients. Louis Sullivan designed the Wainwright Building in 1891, considered the world's first skyscraper. Ralston Purina produced the first hot cereal here in 1898. Buster Brown Shoes, ice-cream cones, iced tea and hot dogs served in a bun debuted at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition, more commonly known as the St. Louis World's Fair. That same year, St. Louis became the first American city to host the Olympic Games.

The world's first gas station opened here in 1905. President Theodore Roosevelt became the first president to ride in an airplane in 1911, in St. Louis, when he climbed into an aircraft with record-setting pilot Arch Hoxsey. The first experimental parachute dive in the world took place here in 1912 when Albert Berry jumped from a plane over Jefferson Barracks.

The antacid Tums was developed in St. Louis in 1928. In 1931, Irma Rombauer, a 55-year-old St. Louis widow, self-published the book "The Joy of Cooking." In 1944, St. Louis University became the first university in a former slave state to welcome black students and faculty. And, in 1919, St. Louis was the site of the first U.S. caucus of The American Legion.

Legionnaires will return this

August to this magnificent city of famous firsts. Fifty years have passed since this historical city along the Mississippi played host for an American Legion National Convention. The friendship will be renewed Aug. 22 to 28.

More Than the Arch. Modern St. Louis is home to cultural variety and unforgettable dining experiences. It also is one of America's most revered and exciting music venues. No wonder visitors quickly learn there is more to the city than what "meets the Arch," according to the St. Louis Convention and Visitors Commission.

Attractions include world-class museums, national monuments

and historical sites, a zoo and botanical garden, major-league sports teams, more than 1,000 restaurants to satisfy even the most discriminating tastes, seemingly never-ending nightlife and blues that is out of this world.

St. Louis is probably best known for its music, particularly the blues. The city has nurtured such musical geniuses as Scott Joplin, who brought ragtime to the city's saloons, brothels, bars and restaurants in the late 1800s. Josephine Baker began her entertainment career in St. Louis. W.C. Handy wrote the "St. Louis Blues" while standing on the banks of the Mississippi riverfront. The song "Frankie and



Food and fun are plentiful at restaurants and nightclubs in Laclede's Landing along the downtown riverfront. *James V. Carroll*

St. Louis snippets

- Founded in 1764 by Auguste Chouteau and Pierre Liguist.
- 375,000 residents.
- Encompasses 61 square miles.
- Second-largest U.S. inland port.
- Sixth-largest U.S. Fortune 500 headquarters city.
- 16th largest U.S. metro area: 6,392 square miles with 2.6 million residents.
- Has 4th lowest cost of living among top 20 metro areas.
- Home to Anheuser-Busch, world's largest brewery.
- 38 inches annual rainfall.
- Average summer temperatures between 57 degrees and 90 degrees.
- Hosted first Olympiad in which women competed.
- Hosted last Olympics in which golf was included as a sport.
- Has 6.6 percent combined sales tax.
- Observes Central Standard Time.

Johnny,” a tale of murder, was written about the wild life in the St. Louis sporting districts.

Other musical icons such as Ike and Tina Turner, Miles Davis, and opera stars Grace Bumbry and Robert McFerrin entertained St. Louis music lovers. Local resident Chuck Berry continues to thrill fans from time to time at Blueberry Hill in the Loop neighborhood.

After dark, St. Louis becomes an eclectic assortment of food and fun, but it's the music that drives the city's nightlife. Blues, jazz, Latin alternative, world beat, techno, rock and musical styles too new to name can be enjoyed in venues throughout the city. More working blues musicians can be found in St. Louis than anywhere in the world, according to the St. Louis Convention and Visitors Commission. Visitors are welcome to “sit side by side locals and take it all in – every last mournful, soulful, you-done-me-wrong note of it.”

Musical notes waft through neighborhoods citywide. Street side signs point to “Live Bands Nightly,” especially in blue-collar Soulard or the clubs nestled alongside the cobblestone streets of Laclede's Landing. A walk between clubs in the Loop neighborhood offers visitors sidewalks adorned with brass stars and biographies honoring the city's most notable citizens. The Pageant Theater, a venue for some of the best touring and St. Louis-bred entertainment, is one of the Loop's newest attractions.

The Washington Avenue Loft

District touts the city's newest nightspots. “The later it gets, the busier it gets for these cutting-edge clubs,” St. Louis officials say. Riverport Amphitheater rocks with outdoor evening entertainment in the West Port Plaza district 20 minutes from downtown. Even more night life can be found at St. Louis Union Station. Once the busiest train terminal in the world, it now houses more than 100 stores joined by restaurants and bars in the heart of downtown.

Free Fun. St. Louis also bursts at the seams with entertainment and educational opportunities, many of which are free of admission charge.

The Art Museum, the Science Center and its planetarium, the St. Louis Zoo and the Missouri History Museum can all be taken in for free. Visitors can wander through history galleries at the Old Courthouse or explore the Museum of Westward Expansion underneath the Gateway Arch for free. Cahokia Mounds, site of America's largest ancient Indian civilization, also is free. And don't forget the headquarters of Anheuser-Busch, the world's largest brewer, and a visit with the Clydesdales at Grant's Farm or with the domestic creatures at Purina Farms.

Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis and the Contemporary Art Museum of St. Louis are free to visit. Tourists also can explore the history of America's rivers and boats at Golden Eagle River Museum or view the artifact and audio-visual displays at the Holocaust Museum and Learning Center. Laumeier

Sculpture Park and Museum, one of America's major sculpture parks, and the Lewis and Clark State Historic Site also are free.

Visits to the Missouri History Museum, Museum of Contemporary Religious Art and the Museum of Western Jesuit Missions also have no admission charges. Neither does the St. Louis Fire Department Museum.

Legionnaires can take a short pilgrimage to the corner of Olive Street and Tucker Boulevard, where a plaque commemorates the first U.S. caucus of The American Legion in 1919 at the Shubert Theater. The theater no longer stands, but the plaque is affixed to a wall of a bank building just a few feet away from the caucus site. Missouri 10th District Americanism Chairman Joseph Bisher recently discovered the plaque was missing after ownership of the bank changed. Bank officials located the plaque and reposted it.

Veterans also may wish to visit the Soldiers Memorial Military Museum. Dedicated in 1936 to St. Louis' veterans and war dead, the museum has uniforms, photographs, weaponry, war souvenirs and regalia on display. It too has free admission.



Take a magical journey from faraway places to your own backyard at the Missouri Botanical Gardens. *James V. Carroll*

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Calvary Cemetery – burial site for Tennessee Williams, Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman and Dred Scott – contains many historically significant tombs and memorials. Free tours are available.

Soulard Farmers Market offers nearly 150 stalls with farm-fresh and imported produce, meat, fish and herbs. The St. Louis Zoo, a world-class zoo with more than 6,600 animals has free admission. So does the World Bird Sanctuary, where eagles, owls, hawks and other creatures are exhibited in a park setting

The Gateway Arch is the centerpiece of St. Louis architecture. It typifies the city's love affair with unique structures. Rising 630 feet above the Mississippi River, the Arch is the focal point of the city. A monument to President Thomas Jefferson, it is celebrated for its simple beauty and as America's tallest national monument.

Underneath the stainless steel arch is the Museum of Westward Expansion that chronicles the Lewis and Clark expedition between 1804 and 1806. Visitors are treated to lifesize walking, talking figures from history, including one depicting explorer William Clark. During the experience, visitors may view murals portraying points along the expedition and read excerpts from the explorers' journals.

Other architectural feats include Eads Bridge, the river's oldest remaining span and the first bridge in the world to be constructed with steel trusses. At the Missouri base of the bridge is Laclede's Landing – nine square blocks of restored riverside warehouses that once held cotton, tobacco and other steamboat cargo. The decorative cast-iron and brick fronts are rarely preserved, commercial architectural styles from the mid-1800s. Union Station, Grand Center, Cathedral Basili-

ca of St. Louis and St. Louis Art Museum also are must-see architectural icons. Union Station is an excellent example of the Richardson Romanesque style. Grand Center arts and entertainment district is anchored by Fox Theater, a monument to moving pictures built in 1929. The cathedral, known in St. Louis as the New Cathedral, is Romanesque-Byzantine in design and contains the world's most extensive collection

of mosaics. The art museum, a Roman revival structure, sits atop a hill in Forest Park. Architect Cass Gilbert designed the stately structure to house the Fine Arts Palace for the 1904 World's Fair.

Big-Time Sports. A discussion of St. Louis is incomplete without mentioning its major-league sports franchises and activities. Major League Baseball's St. Louis Cardinals and the National Football League's St. Louis Rams call the city their home. The Rams will have begun preseason training during National Convention, and the Cardinals are favored to be battling for a playoff spot. The St. Louis Blues of the National Hockey League begin their season in October.

NASCAR fans likely know Gateway International Raceway is just across the river in Madison, Ill. The track hosts IRL, NHRA drag racing, NASCAR Busch Series and Craftsman Truck Series races.

Gamblers have a choice of five gaming venues in the St. Louis area: Ameristar Casino St. Charles, Argosy's Alton Belle Casino, Casino Queen, Harrah's Casino and Hotel, and The President Casino.

City and county parks dot the St. Louis landscape, as do golf courses, tennis courts and other outdoor venues. Hiking trails are nearby, and plenty of shopping opportunities await.

When you hear a St. Louis native say, "There's more than what meets the Arch," you'll know exactly what he means. Whether it's a visit to the Missouri Botanical Garden, a whirlwind tour through Forest Park's 1,300 acres of cultural institutions or a shopping spree at area retail malls, the only problem visitors are likely to encounter is finding the time to do or see it all. □

James V. Carroll is an assistant editor at The American Legion Magazine.

Article design: Holly K. Soria



View the Gateway Arch from numerous vantage points throughout the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, a National Parks Service site. *James V. Carroll*

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New war, old argument

Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., has raised eyebrows – and more than a few tempers – this spring with a proposal to reinstate the draft. Given the global war on terror, the disarmament of Iraq and the looming challenges on the Korean peninsula, Rangel may have a point. The military seems to be stretched thin.

However, by his own admission, Rangel isn't motivated by a desire to make sure the Pentagon has the manpower it needs to meet the rising demands of war. In fact, he voted to oppose military action against Saddam Hussein. Rangel, a Korean War veteran, wants to make sure Americans "shoulder the burden of war equally," which sounds reasonable. Who could argue with the principle of shared sacrifice? "A disproportionate number of the poor and members of minority groups make up the enlisted ranks of the military," Rangel says, and hence bear a heavier burden in times of war. Renewing the draft, he concludes, will spread that burden across U.S. society and force the nation's leaders to be more cautious.

Rangel's stated objectives are honorable. The problem with his proposal is that he's operating under a false premise.



As Mackubin Owens, a professor at the Naval War College, recently explained, "The claim of disproportionate minority casualties wasn't true during the Vietnam War ... [And] it is even less true today." In Vietnam, 86 percent of the Americans killed were white. About 12.5 percent were black, which was actually less than the corresponding U.S. Census numbers of 13.1 percent.

In today's wars, where pilots and Special Forces do much of the fighting and dying, the numbers are even less reflective of the country as a whole but not in the manner Rangel would have us believe. As a recent *USA Today* analysis revealed, blacks comprise about 2 percent of Air Force pilots, 2.5 percent of Navy pilots, 5 percent of Army Green Berets and 10.6 percent of Army combat infantrymen.

Rangel has every right to oppose the war, but it's sad that he is using race to make his case. In the Afghan campaign, 54 Americans were killed and about 260 wounded. The Pentagon didn't break down the dead and wounded by race. In fact, the only thing we know they had in common were the flags on their caskets and that they volunteered for military service.

– A.W.D.



Guard also will deploy a fleet of seven Global Hawk UAVs, which have been featured in the U.S.-led war on terror. The range and capabilities of the Global Hawk dwarf the Eagle Eye.

The upgrades are just a small part of the Coast Guard's \$17 billion modernization, which may take 20 years to complete.

21st-century Coast Guard

In an effort to extend the Coast Guard's range and improve its vision, the service that specializes in homeland defense will acquire and deploy a fleet of unmanned aerial vehicles to monitor and protect America's coasts.

The bulk of the new UAV fleet will be Eagle Eye drones, which lift off like helicopters and fly like fixed-wing planes. According to the *New York Daily News*, the Eagle Eyes can fly faster and farther than the Coast Guard's existing reconnaissance aircraft, such as the HH-65 helicopter. Moreover, since they are unmanned, they remove any risk to Coast Guard personnel.

Further down the road, the Coast

DC in the crosshairs

According to a recent *Washington Post* investigation, the Pentagon deployed an elite combat unit in and around Washington in late 2001 in response to concerns that terrorists might use a crude nuclear or radiological weapon. Operating under the code name "Ring Around Washington," the unit used special vehicles and radiation sensors to monitor streets, waterways and buildings for radiological signatures.

The "Ring Around Washington" has reportedly been deactivated, but not for a lack of threats. Gen. Wayne Downing, former White House adviser for counterterrorism,

says al-Qaida is "obsessed" with "radiological dispersion devices ... [and] nuclear weapons." Al-Qaida materials recovered in Afghanistan are loaded with references to unconventional weaponry. Moreover, once they have a target in their sites – whether it's an embassy, a warship, or the World Trade Center – al-Qaida operatives have shown an unwavering ability to keep attacking it until it is destroyed. As Downing told the *Post*, "These guys continue to go after targets they have tried to get before." Most observers believe Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania, was aimed at the White House or Capitol dome, making those buildings likely targets for future al-Qaida attacks.

These reports are sobering, but they shouldn't be surprising. Only those who believe that the fall of the Twin Towers marked the end of terrorism's war on America – and the fall of Kabul marked the end of America's war on terrorism – could be surprised by al-Qaida's wickedness or Washington's newfound preparedness.

– Alan W. Dowd

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Arthritis: America's leading disabler

Gender, age are key factors in determining risk.

BY DR. JAMES BURRIS

For many of the 40 million Americans with arthritis, simply turning the pages of this magazine is difficult and painful. Many arthritis patients suffer chronic swelling in the wrist and knuckles, which eventually damages and deforms cartilage, tendons and bones in the hands.

Arthritis is not one disease but a group of more than 100 conditions. The word itself means joint inflammation, and this is what characterizes most types of arthritis. Common symptoms include pain, swelling and stiffness, affecting different parts of the body.

Osteoarthritis, or degenerative arthritis, is the most prevalent form, especially among older people. It involves the breakdown of cartilage, the rubbery tissue that absorbs shock between bones. Another common type is rheumatoid arthritis, in which the immune system attacks healthy tissue and causes inflammation in the lining of the joints. Occurring most often in women and those between ages 20 and 50, it can result in loss of movement and lifelong disability.

Other conditions fall under the heading of arthritis: fibromyalgia, gout, bursitis, tendonitis, scleroderma, systemic lupus erythematosus and more. Most of these conditions affect the joints, but their symptoms vary and may involve other organs and body systems, such as muscles, skin, blood and heart. Overall, arthritis is the leading cause of disability in the United States.

Who Gets Arthritis? Generally, the risk of developing arthritis increases with age

and is greater for women than for men. Obesity is another risk factor for arthritis, because excess weight strains joints. Physical stress also may play a role; jobs involving repetitive bending, kneeling or squatting can lead to osteoarthritis of the knee.

Diagnosing exact forms of arthritis can be complicated. Besides conducting physical exams, doctors sometimes order X-rays and other body scans, blood and urine tests and muscle or bone biopsies. Rheumatologists – doctors specially trained in joint disorders – are best qualified to diagnose and treat arthritis.

Treatment typically involves some combination of exercise, heat and cold therapy, and pain-relieving or anti-inflammatory drugs. Ordinary aspirin and other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications, such as ibuprofen, remain useful for many patients. Newer, more promising medications include COX-2 inhibitors, which selectively block an enzyme that causes inflammation in arthritic joints, without affecting the stomach or kidneys; antirheumatic drugs, which slow the progress of rheumatoid arthritis; and recently approved biologic-response modifiers, which block a protein that promotes inflammation in rheumatoid arthritis.

Some patients try alternative therapies, such as massage,



acupuncture or nutritional supplements. Cases that do not respond to less invasive treatments may require surgery.

Exercise is Essential. Experts once thought exercise could worsen arthritis. Now, research has shown that exercise of many types – bicycling, swimming, yoga, walking – may be quite beneficial. Exercise reduces joint pain and stiffness, strengthens muscles around joints, and increases flexibility and endurance. Developing an individualized exercise program in consultation with a doctor, physical therapist or exercise specialist may be an important first step in managing arthritis.

People with arthritis may also be helped through “pacing” and “joint protection.” These strategies involve planning and conducting daily activities to con-

serve energy and ease joint stress. Many patients also may use special devices to make everyday tasks easier: swivel seats, large-handled coffee mugs or toothbrushes with extra-wide grips.

James F. Burris, M.D., is VA's chief consultant for geriatrics and extended care.

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their personal physicians when they have health problems.

VA research finds answers

VA research on arthritis focuses on causes, rehabilitation methods and testing effectiveness of current treatments. Recent highlights include:

- A Houston-based study that made headlines by showing that arthroscopic knee surgery, commonly performed for osteoarthritis, is no more effective than a placebo procedure in relieving pain and improving function.
- Researchers in San Diego traced the breakdown of osteoarthritic cartilage to a defect in the cells' mitochondria – parts of the cell that generate energy and enable production of new cartilage.
- Patients with ankylosing spondylitis – a type of arthritis that mainly affects the spine – reported improvements when they exercised for at least 30 minutes per day or performed back exercises at least five days per week. Patients who exercised less frequently or intensively reported no significant improvements.



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Americans trust physicians to choose best drugs

Sixty-seven percent of adult Americans say they trust their doctors to choose the best drugs for them, despite the influence drug marketers may have on doctors' decision making, according to a *Wall Street Journal* Online/Harris Interactive Health-Care Poll.

Key findings of the poll, which measured public opinion toward pharmaceutical companies' marketing of drugs to physicians, are:

■ Twenty-three percent of those surveyed said their doctor may be too influenced by the companies' marketing efforts, while 67 percent trust their doctors to decide on the

best drugs to use.

■ Twenty-five percent said they think pharmaceutical companies are much too aggressive, and 30 percent said they are too aggressive in their marketing of drugs to doctors. Another 26 percent of respondents said they feel drug marketing by pharmaceutical companies is acceptable and reasonable.

■ Sixty-four percent of respondents said they feel doctors should decide for themselves whether or not to meet with pharmaceutical companies to learn of the benefits of their drugs. Twenty-one percent say they prefer their doctors to

meet with them, and 8 percent say they prefer their doctors not meet with drug marketers.

■ Seventy-two percent said pharmaceutical companies should be allowed to sponsor continuing education programs that are designed to help them describe the benefits of their drugs. Only 11 percent said they should not be allowed, and 18 percent said they were not sure.

The Wall Street Journal Online/Harris Interactive Health-Care Poll is an exclusive poll published in the Health Industry Edition of *The Wall Street Journal* Online.



Fewer drugs on the horizon

Fewer new drugs are likely to find the marketplace in the near future, the news agency Reuters reports. In 2002 FDA approved 15 novel drugs, down from 24 in 2001 and 53 in 1996. The picture is not likely to improve soon as applications for new drugs also are down, despite an estimated \$35 billion in research and development.

The number of all new drug applications received by the FDA fell to 98 in 2001 from 115 in 2000, the first time it has dipped below 100 since 1993. Recent mergers have also cut the number of new drugs, as large programs are consolidated, and drug manufacturers concentrate on multibillion-dollar sellers.

Some in the industry complain that regulators are taking a tougher stance or dragging their heels on approvals, but standardized practices are now being adopted by agencies around the world. Officials say approval times and rates are not much different than they have always been.

More doctors avoiding Medicaid and uninsured

Between 1997 and 2001, the percentage of physicians accepting Medicaid patients dropped from 87.1 percent to 85.4 percent. Practices still accepting Medicaid are taking a higher volume of patients.

According to the report, "Mounting Pressures: Physicians Serving Medicaid Patients and the Uninsured, 1997-2001," issued by the nonprofit Center for Studying Health System Change, such pressure is likely to continue and perhaps increase. A core cause: many states are considering freezing or cutting Medicaid payment

rates to close budget shortfalls.

In northern New Jersey, which has one of the lowest payment rates for office visits, 38.3 percent of practices were closed to Medicaid patients. By contrast, communities such as Cleveland, Boston and Little Rock, Ark., have relatively high Medicaid rates and fewer practices closed to Medicaid patients: 8 percent, 11.8 percent and 12.6 percent, respectively.

Doctors heavily involved with managed care were more likely to stop accepting Medicaid patients. Many managed-care plans, com-

plaining of low reimbursement rates, have dropped out of the Medicaid system in recent years. HMO or group staff physicians not accepting new Medicaid patients increased from 15.1 percent in 1997 to 21.7 percent in 2001. During that same period, physician treatment of the uninsured decreased from 76.3 percent to 71.5 percent.

The study also found that doctors who continued to offer charity care for the uninsured did not increase the amount they provided and so did not offset the drop in their ranks.

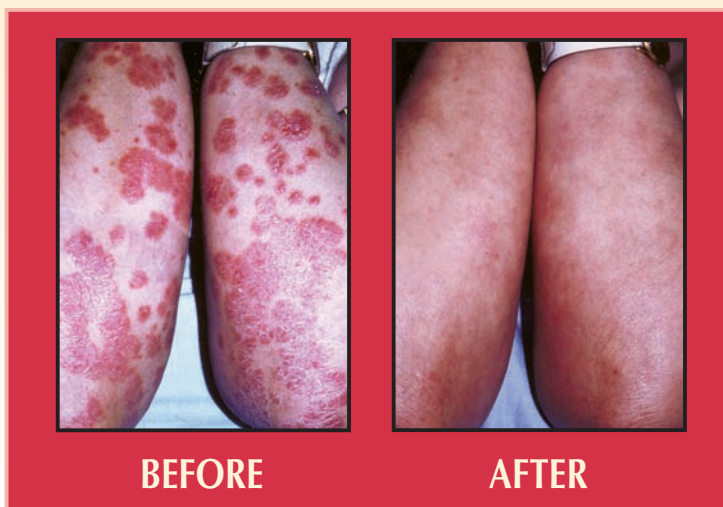
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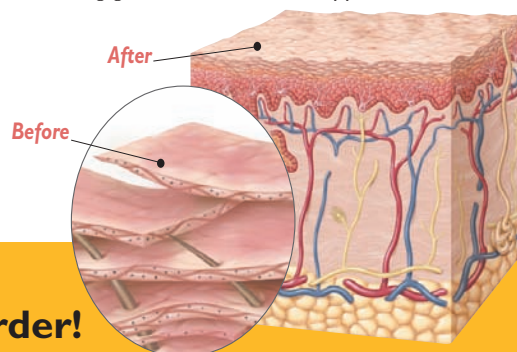
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Mixed signals in VA budget

Record-setting increase tempered by cutbacks and restrictions.

A \$27.5-billion budget proposal by the Bush administration for VA health care for fiscal year 2004 sends mixed messages to America's 26 million veterans, according to top leaders in The American Legion. And while changes in medication co-payments may be good news for lower-income veterans, they are bad news for those in Priority Groups 7 and 8.

Under the proposal, the threshold for co-payments for a single veteran would rise from \$9,690 to \$16,169. As a result, more veterans could receive outpatient drugs without paying a medication co-payment. VA estimates eligible veterans could save approximately \$33 million a year on prescription medications.

On the other hand, Priority-7 and Priority-8 veterans would pay higher co-payments for prescriptions drugs – a jump from \$7 to \$15. The 2004 proposal follows a 2002 co-pay increase from \$2 to \$7. The budget plan also would require certain Priority-7 and all Priority-8 veterans to pay a \$250 annual enrollment fee.

"I'll give the administration credit for seeking \$25.4 billion in VA health care funding, not counting the \$2.1 billion VA expects to collect from third-party insurance providers," American Legion National Commander Ronald F. Conley said. "This is a substantial request and a good sign from the administration.

"Having said that, The American Legion cannot support a couple of proposals that would affect veterans in VA's lower health-care priority groups," Conley added. "Charging an enrollment fee to all veterans in Priority Group 8 and to non-service connected veterans



in Priority Group 7 is utterly ridiculous. Congress should reject that proposal, just as it did the administration's plan last year to charge Priority Group 7 veterans a \$1,500 deductible. Although eliminating the pharmacy co-payment for certain veterans in the second through fifth priority groups is laudable, raising it for the bottom two priority groups should be avoided."

Program changes in the proposed budget and a recent decision to suspend new Priority-8 enrollments "allow the department to refocus its health-care resources on serving those veterans who need it most – those with service-connected conditions, those with lower incomes and those with special health-care needs, such as blindness, amputations or spinal cord injuries," VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi said. The proposed budget would increase the number of higher-priority veterans in VA care by 169,000, VA estimates. The cut-off of new Priority-8 enrollments will not change the health-care benefits for Priority-8 veterans already registered, he says.

"By denying a certain Priority Group, the administration is sending the message that these veterans are not a priority at all, even if

they have health insurance that VA can bill for the cost of their medical treatment," Conley says.

Veterans' service organization leaders told the House Veterans Affairs Committee on Jan. 29 that VA is terribly under-funded and asked Congress to provide a budget that will enable VA to meet the health-care needs of America's veterans.

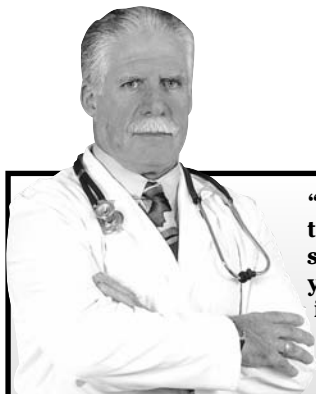
Conley has visited more than 25 VA facilities in nearly as many states where he has found that veterans are waiting anywhere from four months to more than a year for medical appointments.

VA Undersecretary for Health Dr. Robert Roswell told the committee VA is swamped – a victim of its own success. After approximately 800,000 veterans enrolled in fiscal year 2002, demand is unprecedented for VA health-care services, Roswell said.

Conley says the long-term answer is mandatory funding for VA health care, as it is for Medicare and Social Security. The American Legion, along with other veterans' service organizations, individual veterans and numerous military organizations have united to fight for current legislation that would make VA health care a mandatory, rather than discretionary, budget item.

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Legionnaires help promote *Forrest Sherman* restoration

The USS *Forrest Sherman* DD-931 was the first of a new class of destroyers developed after World War II and the prototype of the Navy's present-day ships. Named for the then-youngest Chief of Naval Operations and World War II hero Forrest Percival Sherman, the ship was commissioned in 1955 by Adm. Arleigh Burke and the admiral's widow, Delores Sherman. The *Sherman* was known as "the last of the great gun ships."

The ship was an engineering marvel, bearing a 1,200-pound steam plant that enabled her to travel faster than any ship to date. She also carried fully automatic gun-control systems that allowed her to take on multiple targets. Her fully air-conditioned crew spaces made the ship more habitable.

The *Sherman* played an important role in military history, including participating in the U.S. involvement in Lebanon, where she received a unit citation she also protected the Straits of Formosa in the Pacific.

However, the *Sherman* had not seen its last battles – battles to preserve its past. A long, distinguished career as a warship ended in 1982 when the *Sherman* was decommissioned and laid up in the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard as part of the inactive fleet. While three of her sister ships had been retained as museum display ships in New York, Washington and Bremerton, Wash., the *Sherman* was twice sold for scrap and towed away. Somehow she escaped the torch. The Navy returned her to Philadelphia and scheduled her to be sunk as part of an exercise in January 2001.

The USS *Forrest Sherman* DD-931 Foundation Inc., a nonprofit corporation registered in Maryland and a member of the Historic Naval Ships Association, formed in late 2000 to restore the ship as a museum display and memorial to Navy and Marine Corps veterans. The foundation sought to unite the ship with a fleet of historic vessels



For info and history

USS *Forrest Sherman* Foundation, Inc.
720 Reedy Circle
Bel Air, MD 21014

Call: (410) 836-9260

Online: www.ussforrestsherman.org

docked near the National Aquarium in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. The Baltimore Maritime Museum, a part of the Living Classrooms Foundation, will manage the ship's restoration and exhibition.

The Maritime Museum expects the *Sherman* to augment their sleep-aboard project for youth from adjoining states. With metropolitan campgrounds quickly disappearing, the museum's program has proven a successful weeklong camping alternative. Children sleep aboard and participate in the museum's educational programs. Since the programs take place primarily during the summer and the sleeping capacity on the museum's other ships is only 62 children per night, the programs are booked up almost a year in advance. The *Sherman*, because of her configuration as a warship, would enable the museum to offer an additional 300 berths per night.

The founding officers of the *Sherman* Foundation are Kurt A. Wage-mann, president; Robert Mehrlrose, vice president; and George C. Lussier Jr., secretary/treasurer.

The *Forrest Sherman* Alumni

Group, which conducts biannual reunions for former crew members, discussed restoring the ship long before the foundation was formed. Many of the ship's alumni are Legionnaires, including Lussier.

"As a society, we have a tendency to build something great, then cast it aside when we no longer have a use for it," Lussier said. "The *Sherman* was a prototype and should be preserved so that future generations can see firsthand the achievements of the past. The *Sherman* was the first of its class after World War II and the first ship with a hurricane bow, which led to many improvements we have in today's ships. That alone should be enough to preserve this ship. We feel it's a labor of love."

The foundation has embarked upon a \$5 million capital and endowment campaign drive to restore the *Sherman* and provide for future maintenance needs. The ship's restoration and building of its infrastructure will cost in excess of \$2.5 million. The remainder of the \$5 million is to establish a trust fund for future maintenance of the vessel. Ticket sales will provide funding for the day-to-day maintenance, but every five to seven years the ship must be dry docked for hull maintenance and repairs. Efforts to raise funds will primarily come from the private sector, but assistance from federal, state and local governments also is being pursued.

Health-care improvements recommended

The Bush administration's 2004 budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs has a strong bottom line but a few disturbing proposals, says American Legion National Commander Ronald F. Conley.

The proposed budget will increase the number of higher priority veterans in VA care – those with service-connected disabilities, low incomes and/or those with special medical needs such as spinal cord injuries, blindness and amputations – by 169,000.

"However, The American Legion cannot support a couple of proposals that would affect veterans in VA's lower health-care priority groups," Conley said. "Charging a \$250 enrollment fee to all veterans in Priority Group 8 and to nonservice-connected veterans in Priority Group 7 is utterly ridiculous. Congress should reject that proposal, just as it did the administration's plan last year to charge Priority Group 7 veterans a \$1,500 deductible."

Even with the budgetary increase, a large number of higher-income, non-disabled veterans enrolling in the VA health-care system would prevent VA from focusing on its core constituency and on reducing waiting times.

Another change in co-payments is being proposed. The co-payment for Priority 7 and 8 veterans would be raised from \$7 to \$15 for a 30-day supply of medication.

"Eliminating the pharmacy co-payment for certain veterans in the second through fifth priority groups is laudable," Conley said. "Raising it from \$7 to \$15 for the bottom two priority groups should be avoided."

"By denying a certain priority group, the administration is sending the message that these veterans are not a priority at all, even if they have health insurance that VA can bill for the cost of their medical treatment. VA health care is not free to all veterans."

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side the range, the timekeeping operates off a 3-volt lithium battery. The Atomic Digital Watch gives you a selection of 24 time zones. This ultra-accurate radio-controlled timepiece has a perpetual day and date calendar, signal reception indicator and is powered by a 3-volt lithium battery expected to last three years.

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In addition to its accuracy, the watch is water resistant, and has a battery-saving "OFF" function. The stainless steel butterfly clasp and removable links to adjust the band size make it a good fit. This watch is a great gift for anyone who values precision and technology.

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Old mailbox collects flags for disposal



Two Legionnaires from the Fort Bellefontaine Memorial American Legion Post 335 in Spanish Lake, Mo., came up with a unique idea for collecting U.S. flags for disposal. The two men obtained a retired mailbox from the local U.S. Post Office, had it sandblasted and painted, and placed it at the Spanish Lake Firehouse #1. Pictured from left are Commander Bill Derr and historian Greg Beisher of the Spanish Lake, Mo., American Legion Post 335, Fire Chief Larry Boyer and Assistant Fire Chief Bob Ritter of the Spanish Lake Fire Department.

Several other posts across the nation have implemented similar programs to properly and respectfully dispose of used U.S. flags.

Courtesy of American Legion Post 335, Spanish Lake, Mo.

POWs may be eligible for back pay

Note: The following article by Michael McLellan, Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs, in the Navy's online newspaper "Navy NewsStand" and other official Navy releases, clarifies an article published in the February issue of The American Legion Magazine:

A number of sailors and Marines who were held as prisoners of war during World War II are authorized to receive promotion back pay under provisions of the fiscal year 2001 Floyd D. Spence Defense Authorization Act.

The act provides for those who were selected for promotion but not available to accept the promotion because of their internment. It does not include Wake Island, Cavite or Guam civilians. Nor does it include Army, Army Air Corps or Merchant Marine civilians. The authorization enacted in FY 01 expires Sept. 30.

Only Navy and Marine Corps POWs held between Dec. 7, 1941, and Dec. 31, 1946, are eligible. If the service member is deceased, the surviving spouse is entitled to the back pay. The amount of the back pay will be determined using the amount the member would have been paid, calculated using World War II pay rates not adjusted for inflation. If there is no surviving spouse, no claim will be paid. Surviving children of deceased former servicemembers are not eligible.

Eligible veterans, retirees or surviving spouses may complete an application and provide the necessary

Where to apply

Navy applications should be sent to:
Bureau of Naval Personnel
Attn: World War II POW Back Pay (PERS-62W)
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055-6200
(800) 762-8567

Marine applications should be sent to:
Headquarters, USMC
2 Navy Annex, RFL-F7
Washington, DC 20380-1775
(866) 472-7139

information. Application information and forms are available on the Internet at www.persnet.navy.mil/pers62/wwiipow/wwiipow.html. A special section has been established within the Department of the Navy to handle these requests. The Navy will determine eligibility for back pay by researching each individual's request. This will include obtaining and reviewing the member's archived personnel and pay records.

The expiration date is Sept. 30.

Only those applications postmarked on or before Sept. 30 will be processed.

For related news, visit the Chief of Naval Personnel "Navy NewsStand" Web page at www.news.navy.mil/local/cnp.

Note: The American Legion Magazine contacted official U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force sources and learned that at the end of World War II, the Army and Army Air Corps promoted those former POWs who were unavailable to accept their promotions at the time of their internment. These promotions were only for those servicemembers who were already in line for a promotion at the time of their capture. Since the Army and Air Corps are current on all POW-related promotions, no applications are being solicited for either of those branches.

Questionnaires to document troops' risks, exposures

In light of the lessons learned from the Gulf War, the Department of Veterans Affairs is working with the Department of Defense to perfect procedures for collecting, recording and exchanging data concerning military veterans' complex post-war health problems.

VA plans to work with DoD to collect adequate health and exposure data from currently deployed troops in order to ensure appropriate post-war health care and compensation for veterans. Much of the controversy over the health problems of veterans who fought in the 1991 war with Iraq could have been avoided had more extensive surveillance data been collected.

DoD has been proactive in asking VA for the types of health information it needs to care for veterans of a new war with Iraq. VA has asked DoD to complete the regular pre-deployment health screening questionnaire on as large a percentage of deployed troops as possible and to share the data with VA. VA also has asked that blood samples from all deploying troops be stored in the DoD Serum Repository for later comparison.

VA has requested access to any unclassified data on the possible exposure of U.S. troops to chemical, biological and radiological hazards collected during the deployment that would be critically important to later health assessments of veterans.

In the event of hostilities, VA further requests more extensive post-conflict health data. Within the first month after hostilities cease, VA will request administration of a detailed post-war health questionnaire to accurately document the health status and health-risk factors of Gulf War troops.

Correction

In the February Legion News article "VA Starts List Server for News," the Web address should have read: www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/opalist_list_serv.cfm

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Programs provide help in tough times

The war on terrorism and ongoing military preparations for war with Iraq have created uncertain futures for military families. As loved ones are activated and deployed, countless families face the hardships of meeting monthly expenses and accomplishing everyday household tasks. National Guard and Reservist families are especially vulnerable during periods of activation and long-term deployments.

The American Legion assists the families of servicemembers through two unique programs: the Family Support Network and the Temporary Financial Assistance Program.

Family Support Network. In response to the massive activation of Reserves and National Guard units during Desert Storm, the Legion created the Family Support Network to help alleviate some of the stress placed on military families. Through its toll-free, 24-hour nationwide hotline, military personnel and their families seeking assistance can be connected with local services. Information taken from calls to the hotline is sent to the Internal Affairs Division at National Headquarters in Indianapolis. The information then is relayed to the department in which the call originated. The department contacts posts in the area, which in turn contact the individuals and assess what assistance can be provided.

The continuing success of the Family Support Network is entirely dependent on Legionnaires at the local level assisting families, whether it means mowing lawns, doing minor house repairs and chores, running errands or helping

a family meet monthly expenses. Posts also serve military families by connecting them with existing social services in the community.

To establish a strong program in the local community, posts are encouraged to visit their Reserve and National Guard units to offer assistance. Posts also are encouraged to "adopt" units and provide ongoing support for families within that unit.

The Legion Web site provides a link to the Family Support Network, where Legionnaires can obtain the following promotional material to assist in public awareness:

- Radio public-service announcements
- Suggested speeches
- Suggested briefing for Guard and Reserve units
- Graphics, advertisements and other promotional materials

Brochures that outline the program also are available for distribution through posts to Guard and Reserve units. Family Support Network brochures can be ordered through the Americanism/Children & Youth Division at National Headquarters.

Temporary Financial Assistance. The Temporary Financial Assistance Program is the landmark program of the National Commission on Children & Youth, established in 1925 as a form of direct aid to children.

Through TFA, a post can call upon the national organization for cash assistance to help meet the basic needs of veterans' children. Funds are granted for temporary periods to eligible families when it has been determined after investigation that a child is in need and that all other local resources have been exhausted or are not

available to provide the required assistance. TFA can help those military families separated due to activation in meeting the costs of shelter, food, utilities and health expenses when parents are unable to do so, thereby affording the children a more stable home environment. Last year, TFA awarded \$421,477 in non-repayable grants

to 431 families and 901 children throughout the United States.

Veterans seeking assistance don't have to be Legion members, but they must be Legion-eligible or currently on active duty with minor children living at home. Cash grants, not loans, are provided to keep the family unit intact. Applications for TFA are obtained and submitted through the department Children & Youth chairman or department adjutant. All TFA applications must originate at the local level and be submitted through the department.

Together, the two programs ensure that no family suffers hardships caused by military service.



More info

For more information about the Family Support Network, visit <http://www.legion.org/attack/docs/family.htm> (800) 504-4098



Legion offers discount prescriptions

With all the discount prescription programs being introduced by drug manufacturers and drug-store chains, it's often difficult to choose one. One wonders if all plans are basically the same.

Unfortunately, they're not. Often prescription plans have rigid qualifying criteria based on age or income that many people don't meet. Most charge either a monthly membership fee or a larger enrollment fee. All too often, the discounts are only available on certain drugs or at certain stores or only if you meet all of the qualifying criteria.

Fortunately, a program exists that combines the best attributes of other discount plans but doesn't come with restrictions, fees and qualifying criteria. And Legionnaires are already enrolled.

Since August 1995, The American Legion Discount Prescription Program has saved members and their families in excess of \$30 million.

Members of The American Legion family are automatically enrolled at the time of membership. Members receive discounts on prescriptions simply by taking their current membership cards to one of the thousands of participating pharmacies across the country.

A mail service option allows members to have up to a 90-day supply of medication shipped directly to their homes, a great benefit for those who take maintenance medications.

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Savings bonds also are investments in America. Since shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Series EE Patriot Bonds have been supporting the war on global terrorism and U.S. recovery efforts.

I Bonds are government savings bonds designed to make sure returns outpace inflation. Bonds purchased before the end of April 2003 will earn a fixed 1.6-percent interest, plus an inflation premium of 2.48 percent.

Rates on both Series EE bonds and I Bonds are adjusted every May 1 and Nov. 1 by the Treasury Department.

"The I Bond looks a whole lot better now that its composite rate shot up to 4.08 percent," writes Laura Bruce, senior writer for Bankrate.com, an online source of in-

formation about more than 100 financial products. "It had been pegged at 2.57 percent the previous six months."

The 4.08 composite rate is more than a half-percent better than the national average on five-year CDs and more than a couple of points

higher than the national average on one-year CDs.

The Patriot's new interest rate of 3.25 is 90 percent of the average yield of five-year Treasury notes for the preceding six months. By purchasing a Patriot Bond before the end of April 2003, investors will earn 3.25 percent interest for six months from date of purchase.

"The deceptive thing about these numbers is it looks like the I Bond is a better deal," says Dan Pederson, president of BondHelp.com and author of "Savings Bonds: When to Hold, When to Fold and Everything In-Between." "But over the past 12 years, the Patriot has averaged about 2.55 percent over inflation. So if the Patriot holds to that trend then it may, over the long haul, be the better buy."

The government recently extended the minimum holding period from six months to one year on bonds issued as of Feb. 1, 2003. Investors who cash savings bonds in less than five years forfeit three months' interest.

— Elissa Kaupisch



Online

Savings bonds may be purchased from most financial institutes or via the Internet.

For more information, visit the Bureau of the Public Debt's Web site at www.savingsbonds.gov.

A brief history of U.S. Savings Bonds

The sale of U.S. government securities to the public dates back to 1776 when private citizens purchased more than \$27 million in government bonds to help finance the American Revolution. Since then, many generations of American families have been offered the opportunity to help finance national projects, including the Louisiana Territory purchase, Panama Canal construction, the acquisition of Alaska and the completion of the first transcontinental railroad. Bonds also have helped finance the costs of wars.

By selling Civil War bonds, the Treasury learned the effectiveness of selling person to person. Similarly, Spanish-American War

bond sales showed the attractiveness of small denominations.

In the mid-1930s, when the incentive to save was as shaken as investor confidence in financial institutions, a personal experience of Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau Jr. led to the introduction of U.S. Savings Bonds. He had observed the success of Great Britain and France in offering, for continuous sale, a government security specifically patterned to the needs of ordinary citizens.

A similar product, he felt, might prove equally acceptable to Americans. It could broaden the base of the public debt by attracting the funds of small savers, thus

reducing the government's dependence on large private investors and the commercial banking system. It also might encourage citizens — as a byproduct of owning some shares in their country — to become more concerned about national policy.

The secretary and his advisers developed a new type of government security, one designed for general financing and priced to appeal to the mass market. Since it was to be tailored to the needs of the small saver, they agreed it should feature built-in safeguards.

Thus, U.S. Savings Bonds evolved, and for the past six decades they have remained a safe, secure way to save money.



Members save on vacations

A partnership last year between The American Legion and Veterans Holidays (RCI) enabled more than 1,000 Legionnaires and their families to vacation "Space-A" at resorts throughout the country, paying only \$249 for seven nights' lodging in one- to three-bedroom condominiums. That amounts to less than \$36 per night for groups of two to eight.

Veterans Holidays is not a vacation club nor a ploy to sell people timeshares. Utilizing a straight-forward, weekly rental program, Veterans Holidays accesses excess exchange units at timeshare resorts around the world. Historically, excess exchange inventory simply sat empty. Rather than let great vacation opportunities go to waste, Veterans Holidays makes it available to Legionnaires. Like Space-A military travel, the rate is great, but that is where the similarity ends. Once one makes a Veterans Holidays reservation, he or she cannot be bumped.

"Space-A" rentals are available at all times of the year and can be reserved anywhere from two days to 12 months in advance of check-in dates. However, the most availability of units can be found during off-season periods. In-season and popular vacation destinations can be found, but usually only within 30 days of check-in.

For resort condo rentals, it is wise to speak with a vacation counselor, who can explain the special features and rules. Once a member has an account number, he or she has the option to register on the Web site to make reservations online. Procedures and policies are posted on the Web site.

More info

For more information visit:
www.veteransholidays.com

Or call RCI:
(877) 772-2322

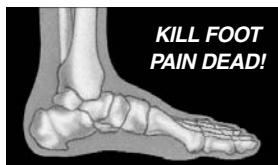
For a copy of the rules and procedures, call RCI. **(800) 481-5738 ext. 8253.**

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aching from corns and calluses grew into full-blown, incapacitating misery only a few other foot pain sufferers could understand.

"Believe me, I tried all the so-called remedies I could get my hands on (and feet into), but none of them really worked. It wasn't until my wife and I took a trip to Europe that I discovered a remarkable invention called Flexible Featherspring® Foot Supports. Invented in Germany, these custom-formed foot supports absorb shock as they cradle your feet as if on a cushion of air.



Harvey Rothschild,
Founder of Featherspring Int'l.

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after just a few days of use, my pain disappeared totally - **and has never returned.**

"Whatever your problem - corns, calluses, bunions, pain in the balls of your feet, toe cramps, fallen arches, burning nerve endings, painful ankles, back aches, or just generally sore, aching feet and legs - **my Feathersprings are guaranteed to end your foot pain or you don't pay a penny.**

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How to Submit a Reunion

The *American Legion Magazine* publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades Editor, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are published free of charge.

Due to the large number of reunions, *The American Legion Magazine* will publish a group's listing only once a year. Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other Notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a

contact name, address, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades Editor, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org. The magazine will not publish the names of individuals, only the name of the unit from which you seek people. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership. Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

AIR FORCE

1st Comp Tech Sqdn, Myrtle Beach, SC, 4/6-9, Erich Feierabend, (941) 371-4837; **5th AF 5th/108th Stat Hosp (WWII)**, Branson, MO, 9/17-21, Jeff Seabock, (828) 324-6464; **5th AF 80th Serv Grp (WWII)**, Branson, MO, 9/17-21, Virgil Staples, (515) 225-8454; **5th AF 405th Sig Co**, Branson, MO, 9/17-21, Phil Treacy, (810) 775-5238; **5th AF 502nd Tact Cont Grp (Korea)**, Branson, MO, 9/17-21, Fred Gorsek, (217) 968-5411

5th AF HQ & HQ Sqdn 314th Comp Wing (WWII & Korea), Branson, MO, 9/17-21, Louis Buddo, (314) 487-8128; **5th AF HQ VBC 5th Bomb Cmd (WWII)**, Branson, MO, 9/17-21, Louis Buddo, (314) 487-8128; **5th Bomb Grp (H) 13th AF (WWII)**, Savannah, GA, 4/10-13, Lee Benbrook, (909) 677-3853, ibenbrook@earthlink.net; **8th AF 487th Bomb Grp Assn (WWII)**, Savannah, GA, 5/29-31, Henry Hughey, (770) 939-2462

27th Tact Ftr Wing 474th Tact Ftr Wing/832nd Air Div, Clovis, NM, 10/1-4, Virginia Murphy, (505) 763-3356, mikec@plateautel.net; **38th, 66th & 126th Air Police Sqdns**, Nashville, TN, 9/4-6, Glen Brady, (405) 946-3457, gcbbrady@aol.com; **56-F Pilot/Flying Tng Class**, Dayton, OH, 5/9-11, Richard Bowen, (703) 757-6591, rab1203@aol.com; **56th Ftr Grp**, Bradley Field/Windsor Locks, CT, 6/5-8, Ron Brubaker, (304) 866-4415

65th TCS (WWII), Las Vegas, 9/21-24, Bud Hawkey, (937) 996-3851; **351st Bomb Grp (WWII)**, Chattanooga, TN, 6/12-16, Clint Hammond, (717) 766-1489; **364th Ftr Grp & Support Units 8th AF P-51s (1944-1945)**, St. Louis, 9/15-21, Dan Leftwich, (937) 890-3641; **440th Ftr Interceptor Sqdn**, New Orleans, 9/25-28, Tom Wills, (941) 966-8072, tomwills@aol.com; **500th Bomb Sqdn 345th Bomb Grp B-25s (WWII)**, Reno, NV, 8/28-9/2, Jim Stewart, (510) 521-8368, thanya@drdave.com

555th Civil Eng Heavy Repair Sqdn, Albuquerque, NM, 8/7-9, Anthony Salazar, (505) 877-6985; **1198th Op Eval & Tng Sqdn (Heavy Chain) HQ Cmd**, Las Vegas, 10/5-7, Jerry Baird.; **C-7A Caribou Assn**, Charleston, SC, 11/5-8, Christine Phillips, (484) 410-8035, christielee52@yahoo.com; **Laon AFB France**, Nashville, TN, 9/4-6, Glen Brady, (405) 946-3457, gcbbrady@aol.com; **Plattsburgh AFB 380th CES/DEF Fire Dept & Associates**, Plattsburgh, NY, 7/25-27, Dave Henderson, (518) 834-9617, shdahender@aol.com

Rockport AF Stat 813th AC&W Sqdn, Rockport, TX, 10/11, Jerry Alexander, (972) 271-4133, jdalex@flash.net; **Sampson AFB Ohio Sqdn**, Marion, OH, 4/26, Tom Indoe, (740) 389-6777, tcjdindoe@juno.com; **TAC Missilers Mace & Matador**, Denver, 6/19-21, Joe Perkins, (904) 282-9064, perkster@fcol.com; **Texas Towers 2, 3 & 4**, Hampton, VA, 9/23-28, Robert Walker, (330) 658-3689, rwalker698@aol.com

ARMY

1st Armd Div 13th Med Tact Bn D Co, Monticello, MN, 9/8-10, Laverne Doll, (608) 723-2928; **2nd Aircraft Repair Unit**, Philadelphia, 10/1-5, Daniel Tiberie, (724) 239-5644, dntjet@bentcom.net; **3rd Armd Div "Spearhead" (1941-1992)**, Seattle, 7/16-20, Carl Erickson, (301) 520-3275, astridcarl@aol.com; **4th Bn 39th Inf 9th Inf Div**, Nashville, TN, 6/19-22, Jim Haines, (303) 809-1815, blblackhawk@pocketmail.com

8th Armd Div Assn, St. Louis, 6/18-22, Sidney Bishop, (865) 475-2883, sbb8thad@bellsouth.net; **11th, 14th Armd Cav Rgts**, Fulda, Germany, 5/28-6/1, Don Snedeker, (703) 676-4019, donald.c.snedeker@saic.com; **26th (Yankee) Inf Div**, Newport, RI, 6/8-10, Robert Raney, (978) 531-2257; **36th Inf Div & Attached Units**, Irving, TX, 8/27-31, Leonard Wilkerson, len36div@aol.com; **36th Inf Div Assn Midwest Chpt**, Fort Wright, KY, 6/19-22, Gerry Groneman, (859) 331-3579

39th Bombardment (VH) 314th Bombardment Wing 20th AAF 21st Bomb Cmd, York, PA, 8/14-17, James Wyckoff, (607) 869-2574; **41st Inf Div 163rd Inf Rgt**, Helena, MT, 9/12-14, Joe Upshaw, (406) 442-5956, jgupshaw@juno.com; **42nd Rainbow Inf Div**, St. Louis, 7/15-20, Pete Pettus, (573) 431-6184, jrpazir@juno.com; **45th Div 279th Inf Rgt L Co**, College Station, TX, 10/14-16, Jack Rose, (979) 693-4656, jrose24@juno.com

46th Eng Const Bn, Springfield, MO, 8/29-9/1, Merrienne Anderson, (616) 361-5973; **67th AAA Gun Bn C Btry**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 9/18-21, Howard Wolf, (330) 872-1467; **78th Eng Bn**, Asheville, NC, 9/28-10/1, Bob Anglea, (706) 234-4201, ranglea@att.net; **86th Ftr/Bomb Grp (WWII)**, Dayton, OH, 10/31-11/3, Sid Howard, (714) 992-2504; **86th Inf Div "Blackhawk"**, New Orleans, 9/10-14, Richard Mapes, (203) 483-7558, marick12@attbi.com

89th Chem Mortar Bn, Des Moines, IA, 9/5-7, Richard McLennand, (412) 333-7260; **96th FA Bn (Korea)**, Mentor, OH, 9/18-21, Frank Lewandowski, (440) 255-2118; **98th Inf Div (WWII)**, Williamsburg, VA, 6/9-12, Norman Johnson, (607) 589-6061; **99th Inf Div**, Norfolk, VA, 7/2-5, Donna Bernhardt, (620) 382-2165, donna@99div.com; **117th AHC**, Atlanta, 6/19-22, Al Bennett, (229) 896-2500, namvett42@hotmail.com; **150th Eng C Bn**, Falmouth, MA, 5/14-16, Alexander MacIsaac, (508) 362-6876

151st Cbt Eng (Korea), Marianna, FL, 9/4-6, Robert Ringer, (850) 482-3319; **158th Rgt Cbt Team**, New Orleans, 5/22-25, Ralph Brake, (757) 467-4376; **160th Gen Hosp Med Corp (WWII)**, Bedford, VA, 6/4-8, William Solomon, (765) 482-4791, jobil@in-motion.net; **235th Obsn Bn**, Mackinaw City, MI, 9/4-7, Robert Gamboe, (419) 737-2418; **244th FA Bn 3rd Army**, Wilmington, NC, 9/18-20, Marie Varrechia, (330) 896-0929; **244th Port Co 495th Port Bn**, Marianna, FL,

6/21, Charles Helton, cehelton@scottsboro.org; **255th FA Bn XII Corps 3rd Army**, Indianapolis, 9/5-7, Marvin George, (661) 835-7375; **292nd Eng Cbt Bn (WWII)**, Omaha, NE, 8/8-10, Vernon Gansbom, (402) 748-3864; **376th Bomb Grp B-24 "Liberandos" (1942-1945)**, Colorado Springs, CO, 9/24-29, Robert Lehnher, (253) 854-2415, robertlehnher@msn.com; **385th AAA AW Bn**, Greensboro, NC, June, Douglas Cochran, (301) 733-6312

406th Eng Bn (Const), Springfield, MO, 9/18-20, R.J. McNamee, (978) 256-0637, mac406th@erols.com; **480th AAA AW Bn (WWII)**, Palmerton, PA, 7/12-13, Samuel George, (610) 681-4459; **517th Parachute Cbt Team**, Oklahoma City, 6/2-6, Lou Darden, (918) 423-0706; **530th FA Missile Bn "Corporal" (1955-1957)**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 10/16-20, George Robinson, (856) 589-1034, georgeandfran1@comcast.net; **585th Eng Co DT (Vietnam)**, St. Louis, 10/3-5, Ken Seymour, (352) 527-3200, eagle585@earthlink.net

609th Tank Dest Bn Assn, Pittsburgh, 9/17-20, Verna Vargo, (724) 287-1344; **614th Ord Ammo Co (Pacific Theater, 1943-1946)**, Lancaster, PA, 5/2-3, Wendell Stewart, (301) 834-6561; **721st Railway Operating Bn**, Kerhonkson, NY, 9/10-13, E.O. Woods, (315) 458-1482; **728th MP & Satellite Units**, Springfield, MO, 6/26, Robert Jean, (417) 859-6518, rjean18205@aol.com; **793rd MP Bn**, Cincinnati, 9/10-13, Frank De Rosa, (847) 255-3977

819th TD Bn, Lancaster, PA, 9/21-23, Palmer Dawson, (301) 824-5136, jebd7@erols.com; **ASA Korea**, Buffalo, NY, 9/18-21, Paul Billet, (716) 825-8662; **CID Agents Assn**, Sacramento, CA, 9/2-7, Louise Head, (706) 798-0588, cidaa1@comcast.net; **E Co 2nd Bn 386th Rgt 9th Div**, Portland, OR, 5/29-6/1, Frank Smith, (918) 474-3321; **E Co 116th Rgt 29th Div**, Asheville, NC, 9/21-24, Joe Dickerson, (252) 398-3887; **F Co 1st Rgt 6th Army Div**, Morgantown, WV, 4/25, David Byers, (724) 438-0123

Outpost Harry Survivors Assn, Fort Stewart, GA, 6/7-14, Jerry Cunningham, (708) 783-4491; **Society of the 1st Inf Div**, Reno, NV, 7/30-8/3, Jennifer Sanford, (215) 661-1969; **USACA Fort Riley**, Leavenworth, KS, 8/8-10, Darryl McClen-don, (703) 490-5384, kdm6951@comcast.net; **US Constabulary Assn Outpost 2**, Owego, NY, 6/30-7/3, Ed Yetko, (607) 748-6395, lbolt1@juno.com

COAST GUARD

USCG Samuel Chase APA 26, San Diego, 10/15-19, Jay York, (317) 849-1283, ymudcreek@aol.com; **USS Adm. C.F. Hughes AP 124**, **USS Adm. E.W. Eberle AP 123**, **USS Adm. H.T. Mayo AP 125**, **USS Adm. W.L. Capps AP 121**, **USS Gen. H.F. Hodges AP 144**, **USS Gen. W. H. Gordon AP 117**, **USS Gen. W.P. Richardson AP 118**, **USS Monticello AP 61**, Palm Springs, CA, 6/12-15, Chuck Ulrich, (516) 747-7426, sunnyclu@aol.com; **USS Durant DE 389**

(WWII), Erie, PA, 9/26-28, Bob Stowman, (814) 265-3904, rastowman@ezsurfusa.net

JOINT

2nd Bn 1st Mar Rgt (Korea, 1950-1955), Washington, 7/24-28, George Coyle, (732) 254-6646, gtc1528@worldnet.att.net; **12th Bomb Grp 81st, 82nd, 83rd & 434th Bomb Sqdns**, Indianapolis, 8/14-19, Bob Evans, (317) 247-7507; **310th Bomb Grp 379th, 380th, 381st & 428th Bomb Sqdns**, Indianapolis, 8/14-19, Bob Evans, (317) 247-7507; **319th Bomb Grp 437th, 438th, 439th & 440th Bomb Sqdns**, Indianapolis, 8/14-19, Bob Evans, (317) 247-7507

321st Bomb Grp 445th, 446th, 447th & 448th Bomb Sqdns, Indianapolis, 8/14-19, Bob Evans, (317) 247-7507; **324th & 346th Service Sqdns 308th Sig Wing**, Indianapolis, 8/14-19, Bob Evans, (317) 247-7507; **340th Bomb Grp 486th, 487th, 488th and 489th Bomb Sqdns**, Indianapolis, 8/14-19, Bob Evans, (317) 247-7507; **AACS Alumni Assn**, Falls Church, VA, 9/25-28, Mac Maginnis, (253) 474-8128, cmagin4375@aol.com

Fort Reno, All Former Troops, Fort Reno, OK, June, Erma Jean Higgins, (405) 732-1520, hhiggins@cox.net; **Guadalcanal Campaign Vets**, Portland, OR, 9/10-14, Gordon Morgan, (503) 254-6848, usmcg27@aol.com; **USS Bayfield APA 33**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 10/16-19, Joe Williams, (803) 831-1822, fayewilliams6121@juno.com; **USS Gen. George M. Randall AP 115, USS Gen. J.C. Breckinridge AP 176, USS Gen. William Mitchell AP 114, USS Gen. William Weigel AP 119**, Palm Springs, CA, 6/12-15, Chuck Ulrich, (516) 747-7426, sunnycfu@aol.com; **USS Indiana BB 58**, Norfolk, VA, 10/16-20, Albert Vicarelli, (631) 734-5001

MARINES

1st ANGLICO JASCO 2nd, 3rd & 4th ANG, Columbus, OH, 5/23-26, J.W. Maurer, (614) 262-9002, jmaurer@columbus.rr.com; **1st Mar Div C Co 1st Bn 5th Mar (Korea, 1950-1954)**, Boston, 8/28-31, Pat Carli, (617) 387-0231, patcarli@aol.com; **3rd Bn 4th Mar Rgt**, Seattle, 7/23-27, Jim Wright, (206) 878-3325, gunner312@qwest.net; **3rd Bn 7th Mar 1st Mar Div (China & Okinawa, WWII)**, Split Rock, PA, 9/16-19, Eric Bubeck, (410) 757-8613

3rd Bn 8th Rgt 2nd Mar Div, State College, PA, Oct. C. Eric Tischler, (814) 234-1209, tisch@att.net; **3rd Mar Div Assn**, Nashville, TN, 8/13-17, Bill Krueger, (703) 451-3844; **6th Mar Div Assn**, St. Petersburg, FL, 8/24-31, John Foley, (352) 686-6209, johnfoley226@hotmail.com; **22nd Mar (WWII)**, Asheville, NC, 10/3-8, Ben Ware, (828) 877-4409; **Bulk Fuel 1390/1391 Mil Occup Skill**, Jacksonville, NC, 5/2-4, Jimmy Bivens, (910) 455-0138

China Mar Assn, Washington, 8/13-17, Bill Parker, (252) 453-4124, wilpjay@aol.com; **Easy Co 2nd Bn 5th Rgt 1st Mar Div (Korea)**, Newburgh, NY, 5/7-11, Bart Dauberman, (717) 453-7085; **Hotel Co 2nd Bn 7th Mar (Vietnam)**, Las Vegas, 6/27-29, Thor Holm, (253) 265-8407, thorholm@worldnet.att.net; **MABS-2, MACG-2, MACS-2, MASRT-1, MASS-2, MAWG-2, MGCIS-19, MTACS-2**, Las Vegas, 10/16-19, Jim Palmer, (707) 822-3323, mtacs-2@humboldt1.com

Motor Trans Assn, Niagara Falls, NY, 9/14-17, Hal Clapp, (910) 346-8797, usmcmta@vol.com; **Raider Assn (WWII)**, San Diego, 9/7-21, Steve Klos, (773) 334-0506, tbklos@aol.com; **Tri-State Mar Det**, Youngstown, OH, 8/23, Joseph Caruso, (330) 758-6976

NAVY

1st Spec Const Bn, Branson, MO, 9/29-10/2, Walter Kayser, (231) 972-7339, wwkcfd@centurytel.net; **4th Spec Const Bn**, Odessa, TX, 10/9-12, Joe Williamson, (915) 366-6927, wogel@webtv.net; **29th Seabee Const Bn**, Cleveland, Sept, James Arcaro, (630) 932-8037; **73rd Seabee Bn**, Abilene,

TX, 7/23-27, C.A. Ray, (915) 754-5235; **Amph Force Flagships AGC (WWII, Korea & Post-Korea)**, St. Louis, 9/17-21, Ted Branthoover, (412) 884-2650, adirondack2@juno.com; **Assn of Torpedoman Mates**, Mobile, AL, 9/10-14, Ronald Curtis, (573) 437-3899, gunner1@fidnet.com; **Bremerhaven, Wesler River & Rhine River**, New Orleans, 10/2-4, Dale Sparrow, (409) 625-4228, sparrow@sabinenet.com

CA LCI, Eureka, CA, 5/8-9, J.E. McCarthy, (760) 439-5598, mccarthyjemac@aol.com; **CASU (F) 56 (WWII)**, San Antonio, 9/4-7, Donald Hatcher, (763) 533-8323; **Ftr Torpedo Bomb Sqn VC-66 Tour 2**, Tucson, AZ, 10/23-25, Joe Mussatto, (660) 259-4733, muzzo@iland.net; **MCB 9**, Las Vegas, 5/29-6/1, Bobby Fletcher, (702) 897-6613, ichibanseabee@aol.com; **NAB 3025 Admiralty Islands South Pacific (WWII)**, Richmond, VA, 9/16-21, Juanita Fertig, (540) 869-6469, fertigj@shentel.net

Naval Minewarfare Assn, San Diego, 9/1-6, David Christian, (636) 931-3568, dschristian2082@aol.com; **Net Layer/Tender AN/YN**, Baton Rouge, LA, 10/2-4, Ed Pinson, (208) 362-2659, epinson@spro.net; **ODIN Grp (WWII)**, San Antonio, 9/4-7, Donald Hatcher, (763) 533-8323; **P2V Neptunes VP-1**, Oak Harbor, WA, 9/3-7, Homer Hawkins, (405) 944-5839; **PATSU 1-2 (WWII)**, San Antonio, 9/4-7, Donald Hatcher, (763) 533-8323

RivRon 15, 151st, 152nd & 153rd Divs, Fort Mitchell, KY, 8/27-30, Charlie Ardinger, (563) 735-5924, georgie@rconnect.com; **Submarine Vets**, Kearney, NE, 4/25-26, Larry Andersen, (308) 236-8996, junkman@nebi.com; **Twin Cities NAS**, Minneapolis, 8/23, Jack Iverson, (952) 322-1249, thetarjei@charter.net; **USN Armed Guard (WWII)**, Virginia Beach, VA, 4/24-29, C.A. Lloyd, (919) 570-0909, clloyd@nc.rr.com; **USS Abnaki ATF 66**, San Diego, 8/6-10, Jeff Stanley, (858) 277-3233, jstanley@ucsd.edu

USS Adm. W.S. Benson AP 120, Palm Springs, CA, 6/12-15, Chuck Ulrich, (516) 747-7426, sunnycfu@aol.com; **USS Agawam AOG 6**, Washington, 9/10-12, John Nicholson, (937) 323-0173, sniperick@aol.com; **USS Allagash AO 97**, Parkville, NY, 9/3-7, Donald Holland, (863) 293-8044, chiefdj@tampabay.rr.com; **USS Antietam CV/CVA/CVS 36**, Colorado Springs, CO, 9/17-21, Bill Hiebert, (703) 768-6419, william.hiebert@worldnet.att.net

USS Arcadia AD 23, North Charleston, SC, 9/20-21, James Long, (419) 332-0845, oyu@ezworks.net; **USS Arizona BB 39**, Tucson, AZ, 12/1-8, Joe Campbell, (520) 529-7494, rcmbp11@msn.com; **USS Bedford AK 231**, Reno, NV, 9/21-23, Dale Sparrow, (409) 625-4228, sparrow@sabinenet.com; **USS Begor APD 127**, San Diego, 9/11-13, Paul Kelly, (619) 479-5213, Yncmusn@aol.com; **USS Benner DD/DDR 807**, Strubridge, MA, 9/24-27, George Streicher, (508) 765-0519; **USS Boulder AK 227**, Reno, NV, 9/21-23, Dale Sparrow, (409) 625-4228, sparrow@sabinenet.com

com; **USS Boyle DD 600**, Branson, MO, 10/9-12, Richard Rogers, (517) 782-7885, rrrrogers@modempool.com; **USS Bremerton CA 130/SSN 698**, Charleston, SC, 9/15-19, Robert Polanowski, (585) 365-2316, skica130@aol.com; **USS Brinkley Bass DD 887**, San Francisco, 7/29-8/4, Bob Shetron, (626) 335-4034; **USS Bucyrus AK 234**, Reno, NV, 9/21-23, Dale Sparrow, (409) 625-4228, sparrow@sabinenet.com; **USS Bush DD 529**, Warwick, RI, 8/20-23, Robert Carney, (503) 246-5772, kcarney212@aol.com

USS Cabezon SS 334, Reno, NV, 9/1-5, Jim Johnston, (305) 451-0626; **USS Caliente AO 53**, San Francisco, 10/5-7, Bob Howard, (925) 939-3662, rhoward328@aol.com; **USS Canberra CA 70/CAG 2 (1943-1970)**, St. Louis, 10/8-11, Kenneth Minick, (740) 423-8976, kcm4@charter.

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USS Cleveland LPD 7, San Diego, Sept, Jack Greeson, (972) 723-2089, jack_greeson@msn.com; **USS Concord CL 10**, St. Louis, 9/23-28, Frank Reichert, (636) 343-1926, sand6580@msn.com; **USS Cone DD 866**, Lebanon, TN, 9/17-21, Donald Shepherd, (615) 449-7996, rodeotn@charter.net; **USS Currituck AV 7**, Mobile, AL, 9/10-14, Ronald Curtis, (573) 437-3899, gunner1@fidnet.com; **USS Curtiss AV 4 Assn**, St. Louis, 9/3-6, John Ekstadt, (952) 891-5954, jckekstadt@webtv.net

USS Dace SSN 607/SS 247, New London, CT, 10/10-12, Dick Geller, (860) 889-2846; **USS Dade APA 99**, Seattle, 8/28-30, Shirley Wright, (206) 285-7707, englishe@aol.com; **USS Daly DD 519**, Norfolk, VA, 9/17-21, Mike Wanamaker, (804) 739-7978; **USS DeHaven DD 469/727**, Salt Lake City, 9/9-13, Sam Penington, (405) 969-2995, sam@ussdehaven.org; **USS Dortch DD 670**, Albany, NY, 9/11-14, Ed Olson, (715) 259-7195, noslode@yahoo.com

USS Eunice PCE 846, New Orleans, June, Harry Kalbach, (641) 524-2811, hkalbach@netins.net; **USS Everglades AD 24**, Mobile, AL, 9/10-14, Ronald Curtis, (573) 437-3899, gunner1@fidnet.com; **USS Formoe DE 509**, Denver, 9/14-18, Charlie Leonard, (618) 664-1136, wcleonard@juno.com; **USS Fort Marion LSD 22**, Portland, OR, 9/12-14, Bill Bennett, (503) 366-1741; **USS Francis Marion APA/LPA 249**, Norfolk, VA, 10/16-19, Bob Martin, (781) 665-9222, tinman61@juno.com

USS Furse DD/DDR 882, Jacksonville, FL, 10/8-12, Maurice Tuttle, (631) 749-0274, ussfurse@aol.com; **USS Gantner DE 60/APD 42**, Denver, Sept, Richard Agar, (301) 459-3545; **USS Gearing DD 710**, Norwich, CT, 5/4-7, R.J. Witkowski, (718) 824-3733, rjwemail@aol.com; **USS Gen. Harry Taylor AP 145, USS Gen. M.B. Stewart AP 140, USS Gen. W.F. Hase AP 146**, Palm Springs, CA, 6/12-15, Chuck Ulrich, (516) 747-7426, sunnycfu@aol.com; **USS General W.A. Mann AP 112**, Washington, 5/1-4, Joseph Anthony, (610) 873-6304, mjanth@webtv.net

USS George Bancroft SSBN 643, Kings Bay, GA, 5/1-4, Jim Angelica, (314) 487-6635, jange2551@earthlink.net; **USS Golden City AP 169**, Palm Springs, CA, 6/12-15, Chuck Ulrich, (516) 747-7426, sunnycfu@aol.com; **USS Goodrich DD/DDR 831**, Charleston, SC, 4/30-5/4, John Martucci, (973) 325-2684; **USS Goshen APA 108**, Branson, MO, 9/21-25, Tom Dew, (903) 334-8815; **USS Grenadier SS 525/210**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 10/23-26, Reggie Thurlow, (800) 418-9195, rcr1@atlantic.net

USS Griggs APA 110, USS Grundy APA 111, Asheville, NC, 10/13-16, Charles Forshee, (336) 357-6476, ctforshee@lexcominc.net; **USS Guam LPH 9**, Mobile, AL, 6/25-29, Gary Snyder, (717) 687-8520, docsnyder1@juno.com; **USS Halsey Powell DD 686**, Norfolk, VA, 10/1-5, Michael Baker, (616) 392-3547, skippermike@wmol.com; **USS Harlan R. Dickson DD 708**, Dallas, 10/12-16, Barbara Lockhart, (972) 669-8779, lockhart-barbara@aeraramark.com; **USS Harris**, Nashville, TN, 8/22-24, John Howard, (715) 425-6458

USS Hawkins DD/DDR 873, Mystic, CT, 6/1-5, Pauline Butterworth, (478) 788-9339; **USS Henry L. Stimson SSBN 655**, Silverdale, WA, 8/29-9/1, Ron Testa, (360) 692-0277, testa@charter.net; **USS Hinsdale APA 120**, Asheville, NC, 9/14-17, Bob Alexander, (828) 628-2192, robertalexander@charter.net; **USS Hollister DD 788**, Charlotte, NC, 9/24-28, Nelda Rupp, (503) 656-4949, hnrrupp@hevanet.com; **USS Houston CA 30/CL 81**, Myrtle

Beach, SC, 10/1-5, Kenneth Rogers, (717) 792-9113, donnaker@cs.com; **USS Hugh Purvis DD 709**, Seattle, 9/18-21, Dennis Dow, (727) 771-7248, ddow01@aol.com; **USS Huntington CL 107**, Albuquerque, NM, Sept, Gene Volcik, (512) 926-7008, evolcik@aol.com; **USS Independence CVA/CV 62**, St. Augustine, FL, 10/8-12, Denis Bagley, (609) 689-3216, atlantismarketing@msn.com

USS Ingersoll DD 652/DD 990, Baltimore, 10/2-5, William Wilhelm, (724) 727-7808, wwilhelm@kiski.net; **USS Iwo Jima LPH 2/LHD 7**, Norfolk, VA, 10/16-19, Robert McAnally, (866) 237-3137, yujack@megalink.net; **USS John Adams SSBN 620**, Chattanooga, TN, 6/19-22, G. Wherry, (928) 767-3370, subpack@citilink.net; **USS John King DDG 3**, Charleston, SC, 6/4-9, Mike Montgomery, (239) 567-1975, pncmonty@aol.com; **USS John R. Craig DD 885**, San Diego, 9/10-14, James Barrett, (609) 698-2109, jimbardd885@aol.com

USS John S. McCain DL 3/DDG 36, Branson, MO, 9/18-21, John Force, (630) 963-7180, jcforce@aol.com; **USS John Rodgers DD 574**, Charleston, SC, Oct, Jack Mindock, (815) 883-8443; **USS Koiter DE 331**, San Antonio, 10/5-9, Ed Franc, (516) 364-3310, doted1949@aol.com; **USS Lake DE 301**, Denver, 9/14-18, Don Kuhn, (319) 364-1404, D.R.Kuhn1@msn.com; **USS Lakewood AK 236, USS Las Vegas AK 229**, Reno, NV, 9/21-23, Dale Sparrow, (409) 625-4228, sparrow@sabinenet.com

USS Lewis & Clark SSBN 644, Mount Pleasant, SC, 9/26-28, George Lisle, (843) 688-4619, estandrich@homeexpressway.net; **USS Los Angeles CA 135**, Branson, MO, 10/2-4, Frank Espinosa, (417) 546-2316, frankandjan@webtv.net; **USS LSM/LSMR Assn**, Norfolk, VA, 9/3-6, David Miller, (814) 763-3090, dkmiller1@stargate.net; **USS LST 1101 (1945)**, Springfield, MO, 7/12-13, Ward Bond, (417) 882-4553, wardcbond@webtv.net

USS Manderson AK 230, Reno, NV, 9/21-23, Dale Sparrow, (409) 625-4228, sparrow@sabinenet.com; **USS Mansfield DD 728**, Cody, WY, 8/26-30, John Feathers, (307) 754-9208, radarmar@wir.net; **USS Mayfield AK 232**, Reno, NV, 9/21-23, Dale Sparrow, (409) 625-4228, sparrow@sabinenet.com; **USS Meeker County LST 980**, Mobile, AL, 9/15-18, Thomas Langevin, (863) 859-5046, lst980@webtv.net; **USS Merrick AK 27**, Branson, MO, 10/19-23, Richard Bonn, (503) 982-7117

USS Maury AGS 16, Buffalo, NY, 9/18-21, James White, (480) 969-3086, jamesandjeanne@mymailstation.com; **USS Mississippi BB 41/128**, Springfield, MO, 6/9-14, Mike Hulen, (870) 485-2362; **USS Mitscher DL 2/DDG 35**, Branson, MO, 9/18-21, Walt Whipple, (561) 624-3051, walwhip@aol.com; **USS Monongahela TAO 42**, Terre Haute, IN, 5/9-10, Donald Varner, (330) 847-8076, ppsigator@aol.com; **USS New DD 818**, Norfolk, VA, 9/18-21, Dennis Butler, (810) 743-9094, dennb8@aol.com

USS New Castle AK 233, Reno, NV, 9/21-23, Dale Sparrow, (409) 625-4228, sparrow@sabinenet.com; **USS New Mexico BB 40**, St. Charles, MO, 9/25-28, Vernon Dascher, (636) 949-9413; **USS Newman K. Perry DD/DDR 883**, Branson, MO, 10/23-26, Walt Steffes, (815) 947-3624, milkshake@blkhawk.net; **USS Nipmuc ATF 157**, Jacksonville, FL, 4/24-26, Brian Clifford, (508) 586-2257, webmaster@ussnipmuc.com; **USS Nitro AE 2/AE 23**, Providence, RI, 6/18-22, Robert Eberlein, ebb23@aol.com

USS Norfolk DL 1, Branson, MO, 9/18-21, Ed Jehlik, (701) 298-0659, bigedjh@hotmail.com; **USS Norris DD/DDE 859**, Dallas, 10/23-26, Edward Mehl, (302) 541-0685, ussnorris@erols.com; **USS Oak Hill LSD 3**, San Diego, Fall, Pat Patterson, (928) 337-2670, dinamrls@aol.com; **USS O'Brien DD 725**, Waukesha, WI, 9/10-13, Avon Blevins, (703) 323-1062; **USS Okanogan APA 220**, Chicago, 9/14-17, Ed Collins, (773) 631-5568; **USS Ordonaux DD 617**, Baton Rouge, LA, 10/19-21, Milt Luminaise, (903) 592-2388; **USS**

Passumpsic AO/TAO 107, Branson, MO, 10/9-11, Bob Brockman, (936) 646-5086, brockman@samlink.com; **USS Pascagoula PCE 874**, New Orleans, June, Harry Kalbach, (641) 524-2811, hkalbach@netins.net; **USS Porterfield DD 682**, Indianapolis, 10/5-11, Pat Fisher, (641) 487-7692, cfisher@netins.net; **USS President Monroe AP 104**, Palm Springs, CA, 6/12-15, Chuck Ulrich, (516) 747-7426, sunnycfu@aol.com

USS Provo AK 228, Reno, NV, 9/21-23, Dale Sparrow, (409) 625-4228, sparrow@sabinenet.com; **USS Quincy CA 71**, Norfolk, VA, 9/25-28, Bill Appler, (410) 549-0970; **USS Randolph CV/CVA/CVS 15**, Nashville, TN, 9/30-10/5, Sal Rizza, (321) 454-2344; **USS Ranger CVA/CV 61**, Newport, RI, 4/27-4/30, George Meoli, (203) 453-4279, gmeoli@erols.com; **USS Red Oak AK 235**, Reno, NV, 9/21-23, Dale Sparrow, (409) 625-4228, sparrow@sabinenet.com

USS Renshaw DD/DDE 499, San Antonio, 9/25-28, Ray Smith, (301) 474-6127, r1srenshaw@aol.com; **USS Richmond CL 9**, Santa Fe, NM, 9/10-13, Jim Miles, (719) 384-6626, jamiles@rural.com; **USS Rollette AK 99**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 10/5-12, C.A. Mathis, (919) 776-4497, matt@alltel.net; **USS Samuel S. Miles DE 183**, Smithfield, NC, 9/24-26, Arnold McLain, (919) 934-7092; **USS San Francisco CA 38**, Kansas City, MO, 9/16-21, Don Gritz, (209) 532-4719, gritzdo@lodelink.com

USS Saratoga CV 3/CVA/CV 60, Dearborn, MI, Oct, John Brandman, (877) 360-7272, cva360@aol.com; **USS Sennet SS 408**, Mount Pleasant, SC, 5/18-21, Ralph Luther, (843) 851-7064, rsdluther@prodigy.net; **USS Shields DD 596 (Korea)**, Baton Rouge, LA, 10/16-20, A.D. Burchfield, (662) 289-4745, adbshields@aol.com; **USS Simon Lake AS 33**, Jacksonville, FL, 10/15-19, Gordon Sanders, (757) 588-2023; **USS Solace AH 5**, Bettendorf, IA, 9/16-18, James Underwood, (262) 473-5416, underwood@idcnet.com

USS Soley DD 707, Louisville, KY, 10/8-12, Eugene Blum, (714) 527-4925, eblum3juno.com; **USS Spinx ARL 24**, Branson, MO, 9/8-11, Ray Lewis, (806) 266-5035, fironi@mainstreetcom.com; **USS Stephen Potter DD 538**, Mystic, CT, 5/19-23, George Buck, (516) 223-0573; **USS Stickleback SS 415**, Reno, NV, 9/1-5, Jim Johnston, (305) 451-0626; **USS Trathen DD 530**, Orlando, FL, 9/25-27, Ron Keeler, (540) 459-7272, ronk@shentel.net; **USS Tucson CL 98**, Spokane, WA, 9/3-6, Tom Eagling, (529) 825-7498, snugharbor2@aol.com

USS Vammen DE 644, Peoria, IL, 9/17-20, George DeLozier, (717) 847-2248, gdelozr@adams.net; **USS Watts DD 567**, Charleston, SC, Sept, Jim Hanks, (810) 231-2215, jhanks@TM.net; **USS West Point AP 23**, Virginia Beach, VA, 10/2-5, Ken Johnson, (906) 428-2923, kennhelen@aol.com; **USS Whipple DE/FF 1062**, Providence, RI, 7/14-18, James Willson, (904) 287-3963, kyoko1@attbi.com; **USS Wilkes-Barre CL 103**, Minneapolis, 9/21-26, Gordy Hesselroth, (651) 454-2801, anneehesselroth@earthlink.net

USS Wilkinson DL 5, Branson, MO, 9/18-21, John Manley, (310) 834-8068, rmjanley@aol.com; **USS Willis A. Lee DL 4**, Branson, MO, 9/18-21, Frank Graham, (718) 934-6410, frankdl4@optonline.net; **USS Witter DE 636**, Albany, NY, 9/18-20, Joseph Ogrodnik, (413) 598-8595, jjogrodnik@rcn.com; **USS Yorktown CV/CVA/CVS 10 (Comm Dept)**, Charleston, SC, 10/9-11, George Brubaker, (319) 788-2809, eyesright@military.com; **VB-101 (WWII)**, San Antonio, 9/4-7, Donald Hatcher, (763) 533-8323

VF-54, St. Louis, 10/8-12, Glenn Ward, (703) 527-7315, wardgw@erols.com; **VO-67 Obsn Sqdn**, Pensacola, FL, 5/9-11, John Loftus, (609) 386-1318, jloftus@comcast.net; **VP-11(F) (WWII)**, San Antonio, 9/4-7, Donald Hatcher, (763) 533-8323; **VP-24**, Jacksonville, FL, 10/24-26, Don Hall, (850) 650-3048, djhdestin@cox.net; **VP-51 (WWII)**, San

Antonio, 9/4-7, Donald Hatcher, (763) 533-8323 ; **VP-54 (WWII)**, San Antonio, 9/4-7, Donald Hatcher, (763) 533-8323 ; **VPB/VP-26**, Corpus Christi, TX, 9/26-30, Charles Meadors, (865) 482-9702, cmeadors@compuserve.com; **VPB-128**, Branson, MO, 5/22-24, John Brewer, (970) 856-4392, palawan@bigplanet.com; **VQ Assn**, Las Vegas, 10/9-12, Allan Prevette, (805) 482-1204, pierreputt@att.net;

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2nd Armd Div 17th Armd Eng Bn (Germany), Glen T. Bowen, 2485 Scenery Drive, Elizabeth, PA 15037
3rd Bn 7th Mar 1st Mar Div L Co (Okinawa or China, WWII), Eric Bubeck, (410) 757-8613
3rd Inf Div 7th Rgt (Korea, 1951-1952), Earnest Baker Jr., (770) 973-1601, dviera@aol.com
3rd Plt E Co 2nd Bn 1st Bde (Fort Louis, WA, Feb-Apr 1971), Don Warf, (513) 474-6273, donwarf@juno.com
11th Motor Sqdn (Naha AB, Okinawa, 1952-1954), Leonard Stachnik, (586) 263-1671
21st Evac Hosp Motor Pool (Korea, 1953), Bob Arko, (480) 945-9403
24th Inf Div 21st Rgt Fox Co (Korea, 1949-1952), Harlen Y. Sturgill, 2854 Liberty Church Road, Auburn, KY 42206
33rd Ord Co (Puerto Rico, 1940-1942), Charles Stankivitz, 102 Daniels Drive, P.O. Box 164, Wampsville, NY 13163
34th Hosp Train Rail (Hoechst, Germany, Jan 1954-Feb 1955), Chet Zarubnick, (570) 588-1071, chetz@poconomail.net
42nd FA Bn 4th Inf Div C Btry (Gelnhausen, Germany, 1952-1955), Ray D. Wood, (972) 247-0296
43rd Inf Div HQ Co 118th Med Bn, (Munich, Germany, 1951-1953), Warren Mattoon, 9263 Route 9, Cohocton, NY 14826
48th TAC Hosp (Lakenheath, England, 1961-1964), Bill Giussi, (209) 956-1641, bgiussi@earthlink.net
49th Eng Cbt Bn (Camp Carson, CO, or Eisleben, Germany, Apr 1943 and Oct 1945), James D. Neville, (315) 788-6966, jdneville73@hotmail.com
80th Trans Base Depot (Okinawa, 1951-1952), Boyd Beatty, (765) 289-2675
86th Field Hosp (Korea, Oct 1945-Nov 1946), John Momper, (260) 749-1586, jdmomper@msn.com
114th Grave Registration, (Pusan, Korea, 1953), Bob Arko, (480) 945-9403
151st Ord Co (Trinidad, 1943-1944), Charles Stankivitz, 102 Daniels Drive, P.O. Box 164, Wampsville, NY 13163

314th HQ Co (Seoul, South Korea, Sept 1953-Feb 1955), Richard C. Doucette, (207) 646-9520
377th Stat Hosp (Korea, Oct 1945-Nov 1946), John Momper, (260) 749-1586, jdmomper@msn.com
433rd Ftr Interceptor Sqdn (Truax Field, WI, or Ladd AFB, Alaska, 1953-1957), Tom Krob, (847) 587-2994
591st MP Co (Fort Bliss, TX, 1957-1958), Alfred P. Jones, (208) 924-5121, 2flycrow@cybrquest.com
619th Ammo Co (Japan, 1949-1950), Peter Wallace, (915) 821-9617
634th Armd Inf Bn C Co (Fort Hood, TX, Mar 1953), John Camfield, (479) 724-0979, johnsuec@earthlink.net
689th Ord & Ammo Co (1943-1945), Sonny Bentley, (706) 344-3869, sonnylb@alltel.net
762nd AC&W Sqdn (North Truro, MA, 1951-1953), Donald C. Wait, (906) 774-2221
782nd AAA AW Bn B Btry (Camp Haan, CA), George Sewak, 706 Lake Sequoyah Drive, Fayetteville, AR 72701
784th AAA AW Bn (Fort Bliss, TX, 1943), Al Boggia, aabogg@msn.com
916th Eng Avn Depot Co (England, 1950-1955), Norman Knapp, (329) 953-3980, normanknappjr@aol.com
928th Eng Avn Grp HQ (1947-1958), Larry Tieri, (708) 246-1718, ltieri@aol.com
3468th Ord MM Co (Rheda, Germany, 1944), S. Lipka, (203) 237-4831, salipka@snet.net
4130th Maint Sqdn (Bergstrom AFB, Austin, TX, 1958-1962), Ed H. Cockburn, (207) 732-5185, edslyco@midmaine.com
8224th MP Det (Inchon, Korea, 1950s), Alfred P. Jones, (208) 924-5121, 2flycrow@cybrquest.com
A Co 703rd Maint Bn (Kitzingen, Germany, 1964-1965), John F. Herr, (413) 283-7289, dherr1018@msn.com
B Co 3rd Tract Bn 3rd Mar Div (29 Palms, CA, 1982-1984), Kerman Shoestring, (605) 823-2361
Beachmaster Unit 1 (Yokusha & Vietnam, 1964-1967), Jim Visconte, (585) 621-8373, jviscon2@rochester.rr.com
Co 097 (RTC San Diego, May 1950), Carroll Welden, (352) 473-8260, bbb679@cs.com
Co 140-47 (San Diego), Lee Roy Ray, (229) 896-3386
D Co 3rd Bn 22nd Inf 25th Inf Div (Dec 1968-Dec 1969), Charles Thoe, P.O. Box 574, Texico, NM 88135
D Co 106th Eng 31st Inf "Dixie" Div (1951-1952), Charles Bufkin, (601) 587-0138, charlesbufkin@juno.com
Heavy Attk Sqdn 6 (Whidbey Island, WA, 1960-1962), David Stuart, (360) 642-5384, dcshuart@pacifier.com
HQ Co US Army Garrison Toul Post (France, 1960-1962), David Davies, (608) 742-4682
K Co 3rd Bn 169th Inf Rgt 43rd Inf Div (Camp Pickett, VA, or Bad Tolz, Germany, Sept 1950-July 1952), Eugene J. Cordone, (860) 635-4719, exvet991@aol.com
K Co 3rd Bn 505th Abn Inf Rgt 82nd Abn Div (1950-1953), Robert Roberts, rrob681666@aol.com
Pine Camp, NY (1940-1946), James D. Neville, (315) 772-9007, nevillaj@drum.army.mil
Plt 254 2nd Bn MCRD (San Diego, Aug 1961-Oct 1961), Terry L. Shelton, (765) 435-2396
Recon Co 3rd Mar Div FM (Japan, 1956-1958), G.W. Akstulewicz, (715) 787-3204
Seabee Tech Assistance Team 1005, (Vietnam, Feb 1965-Oct 1965), W.C. Taylor, (318) 467-2088, buwct@aol.com
USS Blue Ridge AGC 2 (New Guinea, 1943-1945), Theston T. Withers, (915) 573-2505, sdenisew@hotmail.com
USS Bulloch County LST 509 (1950-1954), Kenneth Rich, cr2380@aol.com
USS Bushnell AS 15 (Key West, FL), Andrew Gorto, (570) 826-1811, aaotrog@msn.com
USS Butte AE 27, Denny Gershman, (724) 349-6603, pug84@mailcity.com
USS Currituck AV 7 (June 1960-Aug 1961), Brett Morong, (207) 353-6796,

navyav7@go.com
USS Dearborne PF 33 (North Atlantic, 1944-1946), Fred E. Murray, (828) 464-5553
USS Firedrake AE 14 (1961-1963), Gail Tourner, 1021 W. 13th St., Larned, KS 67550
USS Frank E. Evans DD 754 (1959-1962), Thomas E. Dickten, (310) 322-7581
USS Frederick Funston APA 89, Walter Schwarting, (262) 367-0055, saltyv10@aol.com
USS Great Sitkin AE 17 (1945-1973), Doug Hauser, (334) 277-2151, hauserae17@knology.net
USS Halibreak SS 352 (1946-1971), Joe Hegyi, (219) 661-0715, sailor@jorsm.com
USS Hartnett County LST 821, (Vietnam, 1967-1968), Denny Gershman, (724) 349-6603, pug84@mailcity.com
USS Juneau LPD 10 (B&M Divs, 1972-1976), Terry L. Baumfalk, (765) 963-6847, tbaumfalk@aol.com
USS LCI G 632 (1943-1945), Donald R. Carney, (302) 629-7750, faycarney@juno.com
USS Longshaw DD 955 (1942-1945), Myron R. MacLasky, (316) 253-0008
USS LSM(R) 519 (July 1945-Aug 1946), William E. Winters, (734) 483-9406
USS LST 855 (1950-1954), Richard Comes, (509) 786-2324, rcomes@bentonrea.com
USS Paul Revere APA 248 (1958-1961), Gary Rolph, (530) 873-6022
USS PC 823 (July 1944-Feb 1946), Elmer Muth, (410) 641-5107, muthlct613@aol.com
USS Princeton CG 59, Bob Neumeyer, (619) 461-4344, bobneu@webtv.net
USS Redwood AN 30 (1944-1946), Bill Decatur, hag@voyager.net
USS Renville APA 227 (1944-1968), Don Wright, (513) 481-8317, jdwrightstuff@cs.com
USS Sea Fox SS 402 (1944-1970), George M. Arnold, (573) 635-6033, seafox9@mchsi.com
USS Southard DMS 10 (WWII), R.G. Lansford, (225) 293-4427
USS Tidewater AD 31 Assn, Bill Cook, (386) 690-0684, ad31@usstidewater.org
USS Virgo AE 30 (Vietnam, 1970-1971), Paul Wilson, (503) 873-7647
VA-76 (1955-1969), Marion Swinford, (706) 857-1551, logcastle30747@yahoo.com

TAPS

Alfred F. Caccamo, Dept. of New York. Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Memb. 1965-1966, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1966-1973 and 1974-1982, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Memb. 1968-1969 and 1974-1975, Nat'l Emblem Cmte. Memb. 1982-2003 and Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1983-1990.
James C. Forsythe, Dept. of Ohio. Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1966-1967, Nat'l Rehab. Advisory Board Memb. 1968-1971, Nat'l Sec. Cmsn. Consultant 1971-1975 and 1976-1977, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Memb. 1974-1976 and 1977-1982, Nat'l Sec. Cmsn. Nat'l Cmdr.'s Rep. 1977-1978, Nat'l Cemetery Cmte. Memb. 1978-1993, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1999-2003 and Nat'l Economic Cmsn. Memb. 1993-1999.
Phra E. Kercheval, Dept. of West Virginia. Dept. Cmdr. 1944-1945, Alt. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1946-1947, Nat'l Sec. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1947-1948, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1947-1957, Nat'l Legis. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1948-1951, Nat'l Internal Affairs Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Chmn. 1951-1952, Nat'l Publication Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1952-1954, Nat'l Child Welfare Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1954-1955, Nat'l American Legion Child Welfare Foundation Director 1954-1959, Nat'l Finance Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1956-1957, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1961-1963 and 1970-1971, Nat'l Rehab. Cmsn. Memb. 1963-1981, Nat'l Rehab. Cmsn. Advisory Board Memb. 1971-1976, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Vice Chmn. 1979-1980, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Chmn. 1980-1981 and Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Memb. 1981-1982.
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parting shots

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A GIRL BROUGHT her new boyfriend home to meet her parents. They were horrified by his greasy hair, tattoos, dirty language and air of hostility. After he left, the mother said, "Dear, he doesn't seem like a very nice person." The daughter replied, "Mother, if he wasn't a nice person, why would he be doing 500 hours of community service?"

AN 85-YEAR-OLD MAN and a 79-year-old woman are excited about their decision to get married. They go for a stroll to discuss the wedding and on the way pass a drugstore. The old man suggests they go in.

"Do you sell heart medication?" he asks the man behind the counter.

"Of course," the pharmacist answers.

"How about medicine for circulation?" the old man inquires.

"All kinds," the pharmacist replies.

"Medicine for rheumatism?"

"Definitely."

"How about Viagra?"

"Of course."

"Medicine for memory?"

"Yes, a large variety."



"You're not paranoid. Someone is following you. He's trying to collect my bill."

"What about vitamins and sleeping pills?"

"Absolutely."

"Perfect," the old man says. "We'd like to register here for our wedding gifts."

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the office when she saw the CEO standing by the shredder with a piece of paper in his hand.

"Listen," the CEO said, "this is a very important document. Do you know how this thing works?" The secretary turned the machine on, inserted the paper and pressed the start button. "Great," the CEO said as his paper disappeared inside the machine. "I just need one copy."

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A NEW BUSINESS opened, and one of the owner's friends sent flowers for the occasion. But when the owner read the



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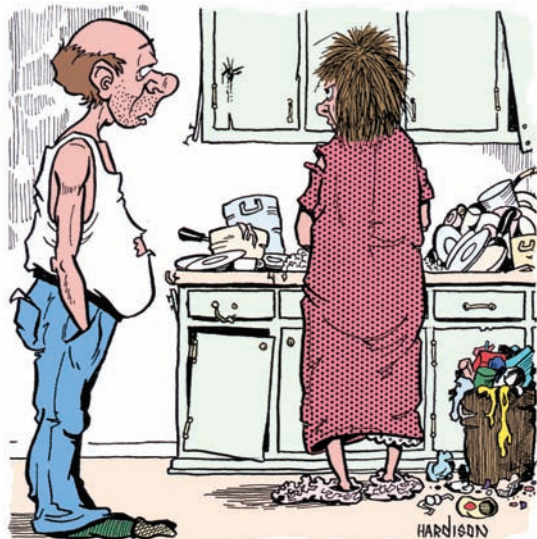
card with the flowers, it said, "Rest in peace."

The owner was angry, and he called the florist to complain.

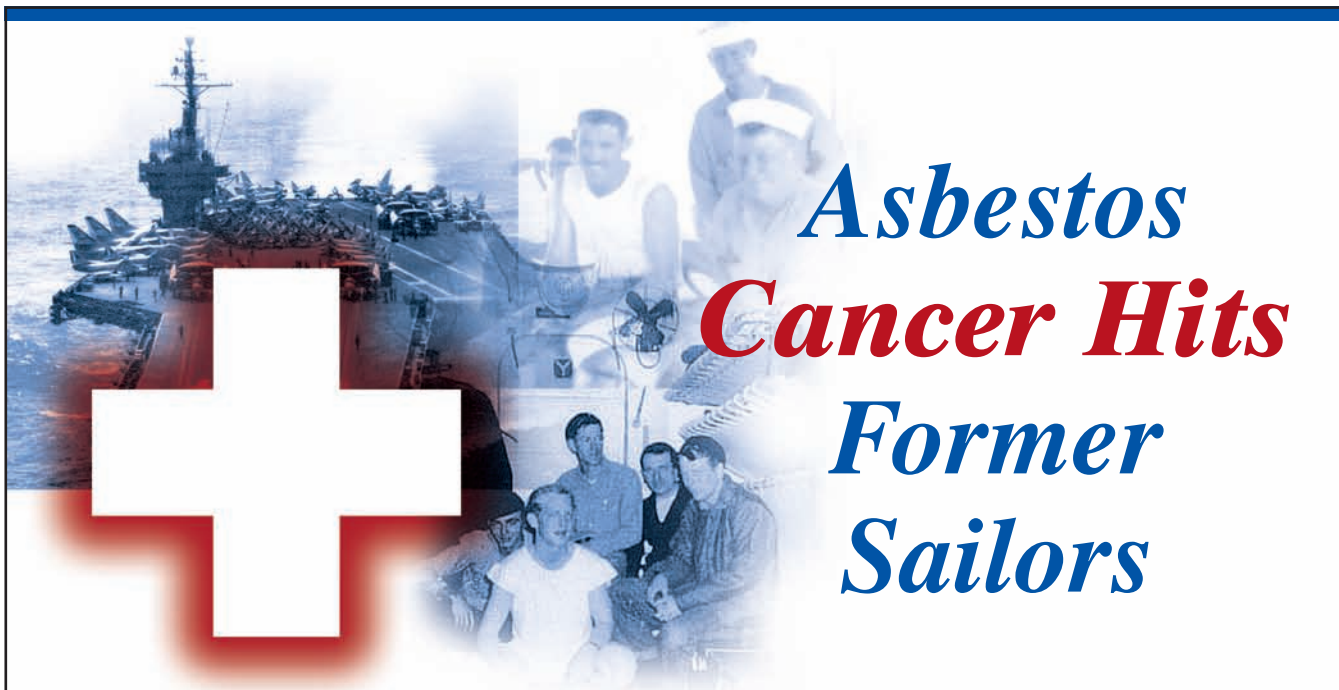
After he told the florist about the obvious mistake, the florist said, "Sir, I'm sorry for the mistake, but rather than getting angry, you should imagine this: somewhere there is a funeral taking place today, and they have flowers with a note saying, 'Congratulations on your new location.'"

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"I'm bored, honey. I can't find a thing to do."



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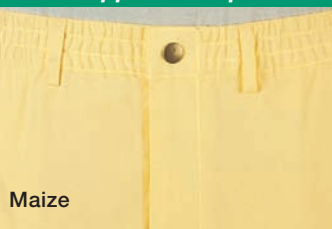
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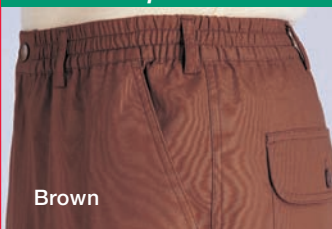
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